

# 自重妹異世界が俺の妹

しない!

2

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Ore no Isekai Shimai ga Jichou Shinai!

Arc 2 - Let's do school management with  
domestic cheat

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Translator: [Rhex Translations](#)

Epub: [Trollo WN/LN EPUB](#)

# Chapter 1-1: Conflict

“Live freely for my sake, remember to be happy.”

These were the dying words of my last remaining family member, Saya. So, when I was reincarnated into another world, I tried to live happily for her.

However, I was severely limited in my new life after being born into a noble family. So I struggled for quite a long time, but I still desperately strived for happiness.

One day, I met Alice a high-elf girl with cherry blossom-colored hair. She also has heterochromatic eyes — her right eye is golden while her left is blue.

I faced various difficulties with Alice, but I finally managed to gain my freedom. Then Alice confessed to me and it was supposed to be a happy ending

—

But, Alice was the reincarnation of my sister from my previous life — Saya.

My younger sister who was my only family in the past. Honestly, it was nice to have reunited with Saya. I was truly happy.

However.....Would it be okay to say that the girl who came to like me — was my sister from my previous life?

I was concerned about that, but Alice said she was happy about this. It is true that in our previous life we were brother and sister, but in this world there is no blood connection between us, so there should be no problem.

“Now, after the kiss, we can go even further — what shall we do?”

Wa-wait, Saya! Calm down! Saya, please show some self-respect! Saya!?

“— Ha!?.....That dream again....”

I sat up in bed and inadvertently let out a sigh. It’s been close to a month since I found out that Alice was my sister from my previous life. Ever since then, I’ve had this dream almost every night.

The reason for this is obvious. It’s because I’m still trying to figure out how to deal with Alice.

Saya was my only family in my previous life, she's very important to me, but that's just as my sister. I've never thought of her as a love interest.

And Alice has a gentle heart and is very cute. She is a girl I want to spend the rest of my life with, to say it clearly, I'm attracted to her.

When I thought the two of them were different people, there was no issue..... Now that I know the truth, I can't see Alice without thinking of Saya.

To be with Alice means going out with the reincarnation of my sister. It's fine if I only think of her as Alice, but it's definitely wrong if I consider my previous life.

So, I'm confused and don't know what to do.

"I know I can't leave things as they are, but....."

I got off the bed and look out the window. The courtyard of the Sfir mansion spread out before me.

It's been one month since that incident, and we still remain here.

There are a few reasons for this. The main reason being we still had yet to decide how the Sfir family would take responsibility for Carlos' actions.

However, that discussion ended yesterday.

We don't have to stay in this residence, but.....

"Ah~, stop thinking about it. I need to get breakfast."

I push back the dark thoughts forming in my mind and finish changing clothes. Then I went to grab the water jug and washed my face.

By the way, there is no water supply anywhere in this world, not just in the Sfir home. It is very troublesome to get water. The most common way of getting water is drawing it from a well.

So in a nobleman's house, a water jug filled with well water exists in some rooms. It seems the servants fill it with water twice a day.

If you use spirit magic, you can make water appear out of thin air, but....you need to have somewhere to store the water as you create it. So, it's not much use.

As I was standing in the room with the water jug, I encountered Alice.

“A-Alice.....G-Good morning!”

“Good morning, Leon. It’s a nice day today, isn’t it?”

Kuu, she’s smiling brightly. I’m so worried that the girl I like is a reincarnation of my sister, but Alice doesn’t seem to care.

.....No, I already knew she didn’t care. She knew I was Yuya and she kissed me.....or rather, I kissed Alice.

I kissed my sister from my previous life.....

When I think about kissing Alice, my heart feels warmer, but then I feel uncomfortable knowing I kissed my sister from the past. I feel complicated when thinking about the person I kissed.

“...Leon, what’s wrong?”

“Ah, no. It’s nothing. Everything’s fine.”

Just stop already. I need to stop thinking about this in front of Alice. Alice always acts naturally, but the way I’m acting is just creating an uncomfortable atmosphere.

I just have to talk casually with her.

“Now that I think about it, the weather is rather nice today.”

“.....Eh, oh, that’s true.....”

H-huh....That was supposed to be the ultimate topic of conversation if you have nothing else to talk about. Yet, the atmosphere suddenly feels so delicate. Why!?

“He-hey, did I say something strange?”

“N-not anything in particular.”

“Really?”

“Ye-yeah.”

What is with this awkward atmosphere? I don’t understand why it’s so uncomfortable, but this is bad. What do I do, what *can* I do? Right, let’s try to

force a subject change!

“B-by the way, Alice. I was going to eat breakfast now.”

“Is that so? Then —”

“Yep, I’ll be going now!”

“Eh? Ri-right, see you.”

“Ah, see you later.”

And like this, I went to the dining room alone. Why did I just run away and not invite her!? Am I stupid!? I should just die!

Reflect on my mistakes, I need to have a serious reflection on my actions.

Alice always interacted with me regularly, but things have changed recently. In my previous life, I had almost no romantic experience, this is just too much for me.

“Hmm, otouto-kun? What are you doing in a place like this?”

As I reached the dining hall, I was approached by Claire.

“....Claire, good morning.”

“Uh, are you okay? You seem somewhat exhausted.”

“Don’t mind me, I’m just a little depressed because I’m an idiot.”

“Otouto-kun? You’re acting strange, are you sure you’re okay?”

Claire scratches her small head. Ah, it’s pointless. I need to act normally or I’m going to worry Claire.

“Don’t worry about it, it isn’t a big deal. Claire you were going to breakfast, right? How about we go together?”

“Of course, I’d be happy to.”

We asked the maid to prepare breakfast for us and then we sat down facing each other.

“Finally, winter seems like it’s coming to an end.”

“I guess so....”

By the way, the seasons of this world are almost identical to that of Japan.

Since it's impossible to know if one second is the same in this world it's hard to be sure about how time works here. But, from what I can tell one month is thirty days. A year is 360 days and can be broken down into twelve months. There are also four seasons that are similar to Japan.

So, currently it's February in the middle of winter — this area of the world seems similar to that of southern Japan — so the climate is rather warm even in winter.

Night time can be rather chilly, but, considering it's mid winter, the weather doesn't feel much like it. I grew up in a region with a much cooler temperature, so this weather is nice for what I was used to.

"...Fuwa — Sorry."

Claire let out a yawn, and quickly hid her face in a panic.

"You seem pretty tired."

I got worried about her and asked this, but she just stared at me with resentful eyes.

"....That's because you've forced work on me, right?"

"Ahaha.....but, thanks to that I was able to break off your engagement."

The head and eldest son of the Grances family died, so I took over the position of Earl.

So, originally I was going to do my job as Earl, but.....because I am only ten years old, Claire had taken over the duties of Earl for the time being.

Of course Claire is still a child as well, but she has a lot of assistance from Michelle when it comes to accounting and Alice has been a great help as well.

What is important is the fact that Claire became necessary for the Grances family to operate properly. For that reason, I requested that the Marquis of Gramp cancel the engagement.

This way, some good came out of the Sfir family's attack on the Grances mansion. It was a terrible thing, but as long it's never repeated, it should be

fine.

So, Claire is now completely free.....Well, I'm not sure if I can call all the work she now has to do for the Grances family freedom.

"The engagement was cancelled.....I thought it was impossible, I still can't believe it."

"You're still saying that? It's been over a week since the engagement was formally cancelled."

"Yes, but.....Otouto-kun, I won't be forced into a political marriage anymore, right?"

"Of course you won't be. You won't have to worry about political marriages anymore, you can marry the person you love.

"The person I love....."

Claire casts a meaningful look to me, but I pretend not to notice. Honestly, I can't have that conversation with Claire right now.

My sense of values is currently shaken by Alice. So, I feel like if Claire wanted to, she could take advantage of me.

That's why, I'm sorry – I apologize to Claire in my mind. I try to find another topic to change the conversation.

"Anyway, Claire, did yesterday's talks go well?"

"Muuuuu"

"....Claire?"

"Everything's progressing fine. The punishment for Elyse has been decided, she will be imprisoned. Eric-san will become the head of the Sfir family, and it was decided they will pay the Grances family compensation over the next five years."

"I see. That's good then."

As for the members involved in the attack on the Grances mansion, there will be no punishment as they were just following the orders of Carlos. I also decided not to reveal the crime the Sfir family committed.

If it were to be revealed, the Sfir family would be destroyed. That's something I don't want for Sophia or Eric, considering they knew nothing of the attack.

Of course, Carlos is dead, so not everything can be covered up.

So, the story told to the public, is that the extremists that attacked the Grances family also raided the Sfir mansion. Although Carlos was killed, Alice and I rushed to the aid of the rest of the family.

"And, on the matter of the engagement to Sophia, I talked to Eric and officially dissolved it...but I'm not sure if that was the right thing to do."

"Ah, it's no longer necessary for me to marry for political reasons. So, the marriage should've been dissolved a while ago."

"That's true, but.....Otouto-kun, have you met with Sophia-chan since that day?"

"No, I haven't seen her."

"Why —"

"Thank you for waiting. Here's today's breakfast."

Bad timing. The maid returned to us with breakfast. Breakfast was arranged out on the table for us, I exchange looks with Claire and decide we can continue this conversation later.

Today's breakfast was fried eggs and bacon, with some bread in a basket. The fried eggs and the bacon taste okay, but the bread is hard and stiff.

This doesn't mean that the Sfir family is poor, I'm not trying to insult the Sfir family, but this is commonplace in this world – rather this is considered to be a luxurious breakfast.

There's no use trying to make something of higher quality because there is no refrigerator in this world. Still, I hope to find a way to make improvements once I return to the Grances territory.

"So, about Sophia-chan."

"Is there something wrong with Sophia?"

"What are you saying? You know she has been secluding herself for quite

some time now.”

“I know that, but....”

She has closed herself in her room ever since that day she killed her father, Regis, and tried to kill her mother.

“If you know, then why haven’t you tried to check on her?”

“That is....I’ve already ended our engagement. There’s no reason for me to worry about her anymore.....”

“Stop lying.”

Her deep green eyes looked disgusted as she stared at me.

“That wasn’t exactly a lie.....”

“I don’t believe you at all. Isn’t that the reason we’re still staying with the Sfir family, because you’re worried about her.”

“No, because I wanted to make sure that the discussion with the Sfir family would go well. I also had to force the work onto you due to my circumstances, so I was worried about you.”

“..... It’s not a lie that you were worried about me, but you’re just using that as a pretext.....First off, the discussion ended yesterday, yet you haven’t made any preparations to leave.”

“That’s....”

“Hey, otouto-kun, I’ll ask again. Why haven’t you gone to see her?”

Claire looks straight at me. Apparently, there’s no way of getting away from this question. I let out a small sigh and decided to answer her.

“.....Well, because I rejected Sophia, she was hurt and has locked herself away, right? How am I supposed to see her now?’

“.....You were terrified, right, that’s the reason you never went to see her.”

“That’s right...I’m seriously worried about her.”

Sophia’s parents were killed due to the crimes they committed.

But that’s why Sophia didn’t need to kill her parents. If I hadn’t gotten

involved so carelessly, Sophia wouldn't have killed her parents.

"Well, otouto-kun, Sophia-chan was definitely hurt, but she thought you rejected her. But, you really don't hate her, right?"

"Of course not. After all, Sophia did those — things for me."

Only a few people know the crime the Sfir family committed. So, naturally only a few people know what Sophia did that day. That's why I was purposefully ambiguous when talking about it.

I make sure that nobody is listening to our talk and begin to speak more quietly.

"....It would be impossible for me to hate Sophia."

Those are my honest feelings. That's why I truly regret rejecting her out of reflex that day.

Of course, even going by the rules of this world, I think what Sophia did was going too far. But still, I think I should've accepted her that day.

"Then go see her. You're worried about her, right?"

"That's.....but what if by seeing her, I hurt her more?"

"It will be fine, otouto-kun. Sophia-chan is waiting for you to come see her. If you go see her and tell her your feelings properly, your onee-chan guarantees everything will be fine."

Claire leans forward a little and gently shakes her wavy hair. She shows a gentle smile that would calm anyone that sees it.

She is just a child that isn't even twelve years old yet, but at that time Claire seemed much older.

I was pushed forward by Claire's words and went to see Sophia.

## Chapter 1-2: Sophia Sfir

I stood in front of Sophia's room.

I repeated the mysterious ritual of extending my hand towards the door and then pulling it back. No, in reality, I'm trying to knock on the door, but in such a situation it's quite difficult to bring myself to do it.

That's why, after repeating the ritual ten or so more times, I finally knocked on her door.....but there was no reply.

.....D-does this mean I can just leave?

".....Pardon the intrusion."

I quietly say this as I enter the room. The curtains are closed so it's rather dark. As I looked around the room I spotted Sophia sitting on her bed with her knees held to her chest.

"Sophia, it's been a while."

".....Why are you here?"

She answered my question with an emotionless voice.

Is this really Sophia? The light is gone from her eyes and she now looks like a yandere.

I knew she had secluded herself, but was it really this bad.....

"Sophia.....umm, are you okay? When I heard you had locked yourself in your room, I got worried. So I came to see you."

"Liar. Leon onii-chan would never be worried about Sophia."

"I'm not lying.....you can understand if you read my mind, right?"

I rejected Sophia at that time, but I was only rejecting her actions, because I didn't want her to kill anymore. I didn't reject Sophia herself.

It would be hard to solve this misunderstanding under normal circumstances, but with Sophia's ability it should be rather easy — but Sophia just shook her head side to side with her knees still held to her chest.

"Umm....is it possible, you can't read my mind."

".....Yes."

"I see....."

She was betrayed by her family, and she believes that I rejected her. She's still just seven years old, it's only natural she would be afraid of reading my mind.

If I had just accepted Sophia at that time....

I can't say whether Sophia's actions at that time were right, but at the very least Sophia did save me. That is a fact, so I should have accepted her at that time.

As I was thinking this — Sophia began to speak.

"Leon onii-chan, before you said that I didn't have to kill Father and Mother, right?"

"That's.....umm, sorry. Sophia, you were working hard for me. So it was wrong of me to reject you then."

"No, it's better this way. Leon onii-chan, what you said was right."

Suddenly, one single tear fell from Sophia's eye.

"....Sophia?"

"Sophia, disliked her mother and father. They always hid their true feelings, they were always afraid of Sophia in their heart."

That.....may have been a misunderstanding.

I know Carlos was worried about Sophia. He may have even feared her ability, but I don't think he hated Sophia.

If I were to tell her that now, it would just make things worse. I think this and continue to listen to Sophia.

"That's why, I couldn't forgive them for what they did to Leon onii-chan, because I couldn't forgive them I wanted to kill them."

"That's.....but, you were angry because you knew about how I had suffered, right? Because you were only angry for me, Sophia isn't bad."

Because it was for me, I truly feel this way. That's why, I hope that Sophia's feeling of guilt is at least a little lightened.

But Sophia shook her head.

"Father and Mother thought Sophia was a monster, they were afraid of me, so I thought it would be good to kill them, but.....I was wrong! I didn't think I would feel so sad!"

— I see. Sophia....actually feels sorry.

"I was an idiot. Of course, it's only natural Leon onii-chan would hate me."

"What are you talking about, I could never hate you."

".....You're lying."

"I'm not."

"Well, why did it take you so long to come see me?"

"That's....."

I couldn't answer.

Because I didn't know how I could face Sophia when I came to see her.

But Sophia wouldn't be able to understand that. It was only natural Sophia would misunderstand, it only makes sense that she would be worried.

Because Sophia can read people's minds, I thought she'd be able to read my feelings without me even saying anything. So, I never even came up with anything to say to her.

"He~y, why? Is it because Sophia is the daughter of the people that killed Leon onii-chan's family?"

"You're wrong, you had nothing to do with that!"

Well, after I learned about what Carlos had done, it makes sense that she would expect me to hate her. However, I would never hate Sophia just because she is the daughter of Carlos.

"Hey, please don't hate Sophia. Sophia wants to stay with Leon onii-chan. Leon onii-chan is the only person Sophia has left."

“\_\_”

I am the only one....she can depend on? I'm glad that she feels she can depend on me, but I'm not the only person she has left....

“Hey, how can we stay together? I'll do anything if it means Sophia can stay together with Leon onii-chan.”

“.....Girls shouldn't say such things so carelessly.”

“Sophia is serious. Sophia will do anything, if it means Leon onii-chan won't abandon me. If onii-chan wants me to, I'll kill my mother right now.”

Is that what she meant by anything!? No matter what it's useless. No, if she had asked something perverted it would've been incredibly awkward.

“Hey, Sophia, you said you regret killing your father, right? Then, you can't say you'll kill your mother.”

“I know. I know I'd regret it, but Sophia can't be hated by Leon onii-chan! Hey, please.....don't hate Sophia.....”

This is bad.....I feel like she's confused and becoming incoherent.

What can I do? How do I save Sophia?

Would it be wrong to make sure Sophia stops trying to depend on me so much? If not, can I truly accept everything and allow Sophia to depend on me?

.....I don't know. I'm not a counselor, so I don't know which is right.

But there is one thing I do know, I can't leave Sophia crying.

So I held Sophia as she cried.

“.....Leon....onii-chan?”

“It's okay, you're fine. I absolutely do not hate Sophia. I didn't come to see you because I didn't know how I could face you.”

“.....Really?”

“It's really the truth.”

“It's really, really the truth?”

“It's absolutely 100 percent the truth. I definitely do not hate Sophia.”

“.....Leon onii-chan.....Leon onii-chan.....Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa.”

“Aah, there, there. It’s okay, you don’t need to cry anymore.”

I gently pat Sophia’s back until she stopped crying.

And so, Sophia’s dependence on me increased. As Sophia cried she never once tried to leave my embrace. But, after a while, Sophia fell asleep, as if she had become tired of crying.

And so, I asked the maid to give Sophia a message, so she wouldn’t be worried when she woke up. I then headed to Claire’s room.

I wanted to talk to her about the best way to comfort Sophia.

“Claire, is now a good time to talk?”

“Otouto-kun? I’m in the middle of changing, but you can come in.”

After hearing Claire’s answer, I entered the room. Claire was in the process of changing into an underwear-like camisole, that also acted as a skirt.

“Wha-! Why are you changing clothes!? I knocked properly!”

“Eh, I told you I was changing, but you could come in.”

“.....Eh? Oh, right you did say that.....rather, isn’t that strange!? You’re changing but you told me to come in!?”

“I was in the middle of changing clothes, but it should be fine if it’s otouto-kun, right? There’s nothing strange about that, right?”

“Eeeeehhhhh.....”

It’s strange, right? It’s definitely strange. Eh? Am I just too conscious of Claire as a woman?

Certainly, I am ten years old and Claire is eleven years old. We’d probably be in junior high school in Japan, even if the children of this world mature considerably faster.

The silhouettes slightly visible through the camisole, are only just beginning to grow. If I consider the fact that we are siblings, Claire changing in front of me shouldn’t be a big deal...

"No, no, don't try to deceive me. Why do you think I knocked?"

"If you think so, then you should probably look away. Don't you feel any shame staring at me so intently, otouto-kun?"

".....I'm sorry."

I quickly turn my back to Claire. After that, I could hear the sound of clothes rustling behind me, and then Claire began to speak.

"I've received reports about the things you asked me to look into, do you want to hear about it?"

"Let me hear it."

"Which do you want to hear first, the bad report, or the really bad report?"

"....They're both bad...Then, the really bad one first."

"All sixteen of the knights that were responsible for guarding the Grances family, have been confirmed dead."

"I see...."

They literally fought to the death. I didn't even know any of their faces, but if they hadn't fought I wouldn't be alive now.

I closed my eyes and prayed for their happiness in the next life.

".....We need to send money to the bereaved families."

".....Money?"

"If the families have lost the income brought in by the knights how will they be able to live? Have there been any guarantees made to the families that they will be taken care of?"

"Umm....I'm sorry, I don't know. I will look into it later, you can leave it to me, okay?"

"Anyway.....are you done changing?"

"Eh, I'm still changing, do you want to look?"

"Claire....."

"I'm just kidding. Otouto-kun seems to be worrying about something, so I was

trying to lighten the mood a bit.”

“If you noticed I’m worried, then please don’t try to cheer me up by teasing me.”

“.....Do you want me to hug you from behind?”

After hearing this, I imagined myself being hugged by Claire.

.....Honestly, it would calm me down a bit, but I feel like I’ll become a useless man if I rely too much on Claire.

“I’m sorry, you’re right. Your teasing was already enough.”

“If that’s the case, you can turn around, I’ve finished changing.”

I cautiously turn around, doubting Claire’s words, but she really had finished changing.

“So, what’s the other report?”

“The majority of the Grances family’s servants managed to escape. We’re trying to care for all of them, but there are still some we haven’t been able to locate.”

They’re missing.....Is it possible that some of the servants were helping the Sfir family? If so, I could never forgive them.

They must take responsibility for what they have done.

“We don’t have any idea where they could be?”

“We are doing everything we can to find them. The Grances family has only recently started functioning again, so it took us a long time to start investigating.”

“Ah....that’s true.”

I spent about two weeks travelling to and from the elf village. I stayed in the village for about a week. Then, the investigation didn’t start until a few days after the incident with Carlos. So, it took about a month before the investigation started.

Furthermore, since the wooden part of the Grances mansion burned down, so the area in the house the servants lived is currently uninhabitable.....huh?

"Wa...wait a minute....the people that are missing, they're not....."

"....Yes. It seems some of the servants that were struggling sold themselves into slavery.....We're looking for them, but....."

Aaaaaaaaahhh, I'm sorry for being suspicious of them!

I see, that makes sense. This world has no banks or welfare. So, if they were to lose their jobs and their place of living, most would end up on the streets.

"Claire, please do everything possible to provide for those people! You can use as many people as you need, it doesn't matter how much it costs!"

"O-okay, that's fine, but.....Even though these people helped keep you confined, you're so desperate to take care of them. Otouto-kun is kind as expected."

You're wrong, I'm just overcome with this feeling of guilt. It wasn't any of the servants fault that I was confined. And if you tell me I'm kind, the guilt will cause me even more pain!

"I'll make the necessary arrangements, but why did you want to see me today, otouto-kun?"

"Ah, I met with Sophia, so I wanted to talk with you about her."

"How is Sophia-chan?"

"Honestly —"

I told Claire what happened with Sophia.

"I see.....she's really dependent on you."

"You think so too?"

"Well, considering what happened with her parents, it makes sense that she feels like she can only rely on you after you forgave her."

"Is that a good thing?"

"I'm not sure. At least she's started talking to you like normal, right?"

"That's true. I feel uncertain sometimes when talking with her, but I think I can speak with her comfortably."

"Then, it's all up to you. You need to support Sophia-chan properly, so she doesn't make any mistakes."

"That's true, but...."

It's entirely up to me. In other words, if I fail Sophia, she'll become even worse. It's almost too much of a responsibility.

Besides that.

When it comes to managing matters involving the Grances family, it's rather difficult doing that from the Sfir home. Then, there's also the matters concerning the servants from a little while ago. So, I can't stay here forever.

"I'm concerned about the Grances' territory, I want to do something about it as soon as possible."

"Hmm~ then, you should speak with Alice."

"Alice?"

"Yes, she's a high elf right? She may know of a solution that you haven't thought of."

"I see...."

I don't know if Alice's knowledge as a high-elf will be useful, but Alice also has memories of her previous life – she has memories of being Japanese. She also may be able to help me understand Sophia's mental state a bit better.

"Alright, I'll speak with her then."

"Good, then please go ahead. I have a lot of paperwork to finish. If you need help with anything, remember you can always depend on me."

## Chapter 1-3: Alistair's Feelings

I left Claire's room and headed to look for Alice in her room, but she wasn't there. So, I decided to wander around the mansion hoping to find her.

"Well, I don't know what Alice usually spends her time doing here at the mansion."

When we were still at the Grances mansion, we were together all the time — Even when we were deceiving Mary and pretending to sleep together, things weren't awkward like this.....Ever since the confession it's been like this.

Alice and Saya.

Both of them are important to me, I honestly want to stay with Alice forever....Knowing they're the same person, it makes me hesitate a little.

Things really can't seem to go my way in this world.

"Ah, is that you Leon-kun?"

I was surprised by someone suddenly calling out to me. Eric-san was standing in front of me, I seemed to have walked up to him while I was lost in thought.

"Hello, is everything alright?"

"I know I've already told you this, but thank you. Thanks to you, the Sfir family can go on, I really appreciate it."

"Like I've said many times, it's fine, I can't forgive what Carlos did, but I don't want to take out my pain on someone unrelated."

"Unrelated, but I'm his son."

"But you knew nothing of Carlos' plans. If I had destroyed the Sfir family you, Sophia, and all of the family's servants would be ruined. So, this is fine."

"I see....thank you. I sincerely thank you. Though, you've already helped a lot, but I have a favor to ask of you."

Eric looks at me apologetically.

"What is it? If it's something I can help with, I'm more than willing to listen."

"It's about Sophia. I understand why you broke off the engagement, but she has become very attached to you. Would you consider taking her with you when you return to the Grances territory?"

"Take her home with me....."

When I turn my eyes to Eric, he gave me a small nod. Well, should I take Sophia with me? I'll need to think about it.....

"Can you wait a little while for my answer?"

"Of course, I don't mind, but.....it's a little surprising. I thought you'd accept without any hesitation."

"I am worried about Sophia, but Sophia has become entirely dependant on me. I'm unsure if increasing her dependance is a good thing, or if it is even possible for me to get her to become less reliant on me. So, please give me some time to think about it."

"I see, I'm sorry for asking you this so suddenly. I expect a favourable answer."

"I'm sorry for making you have to wait."

"It's no problem. I'm sorry for asking this favor of you. I hope to repay you for all of your help eventually."

Eric-san said this and bowed once more. This favor really isn't inconvenient to me, so I'm not worried too much.

I parted with Eric and started searching for Alice again. I wandered around the mansion for a while before I spotted the silhouette of someone that appeared to be Alice on a balcony on the second floor.

I began to approach Alice, but as I went to call out to her — I saw her profile and I was left breathless.

Alice was leaning against the railing and looking up into the sky with a listless expression, her cherry-blossom colored hair was blowing in the wind. The moment I saw this, my chest tightened.

"...Hmm, Leon? What are you doing here?"

Alice noticed me and turned to smile at me. At that time, the gloomy atmosphere surrounding Alice disappeared, and she returned to her normal calm atmosphere.

“Well.....actually, it’s.....”

I’m at a loss. I should’ve thought of something to say before finding her, but the moment I saw her I was completely at a loss for words.

“— Leon?”

Before I knew it, Alice had knelt down in front of me and was looking straight into my eyes. Her deep blue eyes, that seem like they can see right through me, look at me.

“.....Perhaps, are you still worried?”

“That’s.....I’m still worried about it. Is it okay that the person I like, was my younger sister?”

“I think you answered your own question, when you said the person you like.”

“No, no the person I came to like turned out to be my sister, no matter what you say that is too much for someone to get past.”

“Well, that’s because you think of me as your sister, so it’s impossible.”

“.....Hmm? What do you mean, Alice is — the reincarnation of Saya.”

I confirm nobody is around and finish my sentence in a whisper.

“That’s true, but let me say it like this.....If you like someone, but found out they did something in their past you don’t like, would you then dislike them?”

“.....When you say it like that, I’m honestly not sure how I’d feel.”

But still.....

My feelings wouldn’t waver even if I disliked something from Alice’s past! Even if the person I like was my real sister in her previous life!

I feel like I’d lose somehow if I said that.

“No matter what your answer is, my feelings won’t change. I am always on your side, Leon. So, you don’t need to rush and give me an answer.”

.....Damn, Alice is too cute. I wouldn't have any reason to hesitate if I didn't know she was my sister from my previous life. It's truly annoying.

I'm even more frustrated I can't give Alice an answer.

"Alice.....I'm sorry."

"Mou, shouldn't you be saying thank you instead?"

"Right, thank you, Alice.....One day I will give you a proper answer, so please wait until that day."

"Well, that's impossible."

".....Eh?"

My thoughts stop after hearing her unexpected answer.

"So...sorry, could you say that again?"

"Like~I~said, it would be impossible to wait."

"Eeeeehhhhh!? Why!? The way you were talking sounded like you'd wait for my answer, right!? After all, you're an elf and have a long life, so you could wait for a very long time."

".....It sounds like you plan to make me wait decades."

She stared at me with scornful eyes.

".....No, I don't plan on making you wait that long, but can't you wait a little while?"

"No way! Didn't I already wait an entire lifetime?"

"Aaahhh, you did die, so technically that's a lifetime!"

"Exactly, so that's why I've decided not to hold back anymore."

Did she just decide this earlier? Is that why she had such a listless expression?

"Didn't you just say that I don't have to rush and give you an answer a moment ago?"

"I did say that, but I didn't say I'd wait. Even if I have to force you, Leon will only have eyes for me."

That far!? Rather, what does she mean by force me!? As I was thinking this, Alice began to blush and smiled a little.

“Leon, I’ve loved you ever since my previous life.”

“~~~~~”

“Fufu~, Leon is red?”

“B-b-b-be quiet! Do you expect me to accept, if you confess so suddenly!? Besides, Alice is the one turning red!”

“I just confessed my feelings. Even if I’m embarrassed, I’m determined”

“Guha!”

I had to respond to her, but her counter was too much for me! Calm down, I need to calm down. If I lose my composure here, I’ll fall right into Alice’s hands.

“....\*Haa\*, haa, do you think that’s enough to change my mind?”

“It’s fine. I’ve told you how I really feel. So, this is enough for now.”

“R-really? Then, that’s good, but.....”

“Yep. Instead, next time I may have to play dirty. So prepare yourself.”

“What are you planning to do?”

“It’s a secret.”

“Give me a break...”

I am afraid of what my younger sister is going to do next.

“By the way, Leon, did you need me for something?”

“Ah, right. I wanted to talk with you about Sophia.”

“Is there something wrong with Sophia-chan?”

Actually — and I told Alice the same thing I told Claire.

“Acute stress disorder, ASD.....”

“Acute stress disorder, ASD? You don’t think it’s posttraumatic stress disorder, PTSD?”

“Ummm.....I’m not that familiar with it.”

"It's still a good thing. I think we're the only ones in this world that know anything about either condition."

"Well, that's true. Umm....If it's a sudden accident or tragedy, it's possibly ASD. If a person is facing abuse, or similar circumstances, for many months, it's usually PTSD."

"They're symptomatic disorders?"

"I think that's roughly the case."

"Fumufumu. Then, it's definitely a stress disorder?"

"I can't say for sure, but.....You said Sophia-chan can't use her ability to read people's minds, right? Avoiding the cause of a trauma is a symptom as well."

"Then...what can we do?"

If we were in Japan, "Take her to the hospital" would be the correct answer, but .... There is no hospital in this world, let alone a psychiatric hospital.

Even if there were, Sophia would probably have to be confined there for the rest of her life. I wouldn't let Sophia be taken to a place like that.

"What do you think we should do, Alice?"

"Well.....I think it's good for her to rely on you, but I also feel that it's dangerous if she feels you are the only person that she can trust."

"You're right. I can't let her be completely dependent on me."

Originally, Sophia could use her ability to determine if she could trust someone. Ever since the incident, Sophia has avoided using her ability. So, she feels the only person left she can trust is me.

If things were to continue like this, I feel like — everything I say, would become an absolute truth to Sophia.

"If you don't mind, can I meet with her?"

"You're going to try to become friends with Sophia?"

"Yes. See, when we first met in the mansion, you told her to use her ability to see that she could trust me, remember? So, I think there's a chance that Sophia-chan may trust me more than other people."

Ah~, that's true.

.....I see. Now that Sophia can't read other people's minds and she has become afraid of touching people more than before, Alice, who gained her trust earlier, may be one of the only other people Sophia feels she can trust.

"Well, then.....she's sleeping, so do you want to visit her tomorrow?"

"Hmm~, I think Sophia-chan will become defensive if I try talking with her so suddenly."

"Is that so? Then.....what about having a tea party?"

"Ah, it may be good to talk over a cup of tea and let her stress slip away. Would you be able to make some sweets?"

"Well, Sophia really liked the pudding I made. Though, there are no refrigerators here so I couldn't make the chilled version."

"That shouldn't be a problem, I can use spirit magic to cool it down."

"Oh, you can do that?"

If Alice is around, there's no need for a refrigerator.

Though, it's been one month since those events. I've continued training with spirit magic and I feel like I could also manage to chill things.

Like this...I would like to be able to make ice cream. Sophia was delighted with the custard pudding, I'm sure she'd be even more pleased with ice cream.

For the time being, should I attempt making new sweets?

## Chapter 1-4: A Glimpse at Alice's Cheat

That afternoon, we decided to strike while the iron is hot.

Alice and I borrowed a corner of the kitchen so we could make sweets. I'll try to make them by myself at first, and if everything goes well, we can eat them at the tea party tomorrow.

By the way, the chefs have formed a wide circle around us. It seems to be because they knew I made the custard pudding a while ago.

"So, Leon, what have you decided to make?"

"Right....first I wanted to try to make chilled pudding. Then, try to make a fresh cream cake and ice cream."

"Milk and eggs should be easy enough.....But, what about vanilla extract, fresh cream, and cake flour?"

"Maybe we should ask?"

I looked out at the circle of chefs surrounding us....they were all looking at us curiously. It seems all of them are confused because we have been talking about ingredients we need using Japanese words.

After asking the chefs, we were able to find everything except fresh cream. Let's get started immediately.

"All that's left is fresh cream. How can we make that?"

I have memories from my previous life about how to make fresh cream. I remember that you need to combine cream and granulated sugar, then stir it and wait a long time for the cream to separate.

However,

"Fresh cream is simple enough, we only need milk and a centrifuge."

Alice says this, and prepares a large jug of milk.

"Is that all?"

"It's a bit more difficult with processed milk."

Ah....that makes sense.

In Japan, where only processed milk is sold, it is much more difficult to make fresh cream. But, in this world, unprocessed milk is common, so there are no problems.

“Then.....should I keep the milk in the jug and keep shaking?”

I thought that would be the only way to do it without a centrifuge.

“That’s not necessary.”

Alice laughs mischievously, then places her hand, which had gathered magical power into it, over the jug of milk.

“.....Eh, whitish lumps float to the top at a great speed. I’ve asked the spirits to separate the ingredients.”

“.....What is with your cheat.”

Why is this girl so strong? Spirit magic isn’t enough? Why do I have to feel so jealous of her?

She’s a high elf with an attractive face and great figure, she has enhanced perception and sensory sharing, and is also a master spirit magician. Then, she also has knowledge from another world.

Well I have that last one too, that’s why I can make sweets for Sophia.

....If I think about it calmly, Alice is waiting for my reply to her confession, but she’s also helping me cheer up another girl.

Somehow, I feel apologetic to Alice.

“Alice, umm.....I’m sorry.”

“Fue?”

When I suddenly apologized, Alice tilted her head and looked at me blankly.

“I feel sorry for having you help me cheer up Sophia.”

“What’s this, you don’t need to worry about it. I can’t just stand by why such a small child is so sad.”

“....Alice is kind.”

"This much is just normal, should we start? I'll start to make the cake, Leon start on the ice cream please."

"Okay."

I try to focus and start preparing the ice cream.

Ice cream, ice cream. I lived alone ever since I lost my parents in my previous life, so I have plenty of experience with cooking...but the only knowledge I have of making desserts is from what I looked up on the net.

First off, I need to whisk the cream....Muu~, because there is no mixer in this world, it's quite troublesome.....Finally, it's gotten frothy.

Next, mix egg whites and sugar in a bowl and whisk.....Is this enough?

Finally, put it all together with a little vanilla extract.

Whisk it once more, and it will be completed after chilling it with spirit magic, but.....using spirit magic to chill it is harder than I expected.

Usually when trying to use magic, I use a template. Just by chanting a spell and picturing what I want to happen, I can get something to happen.....but when I want to just gradually cool something, it's useless to use a template.

I just have to picture it properly and I should be able to manage.....

As I was trying to focus on using spirit magic, I again could hear a commotion behind me.

The people surrounding us seemed to be amazed that a child is able to use the same magic as Alice without chanting, but Alice is at a completely different level than me.

Please stop looking at me like that, if you treat me like I'm at the same level as Alice I'll feel nothing but shame.

"Hey, hey, Leon."

As I was going through trial and error to cool it, Alice spoke to me.

"I can't cool it well enough, what should I do?"

"Ah, I've finished mixing. Well then, I'll cool it down so it will become ice cream, Leon can you taste the cake while I do this?"

"Ah, of course.....huh? You want me to taste the ingredients you just mixed?"

"Yep. It tastes like sponge cake and whipped cream."

"That's impossible, we only started cooking twenty minutes ago — is it really done!?"

There was a pure white cake in front of Alice. There were no decorations on it, but no matter how you look at it, it's a cake with whipped cream on it.

Even just the time for it to bake would take a little over an hour or so, so how on earth did she....ah, did she use spirit magic?

"Yep, the ice cream is also done."

"What!?"

I look back in surprise to see that the ingredients I had been working with a little while ago, had now become ice cream with a perfect texture.

"Wh-what did you do? How did you cool it while stirring?"

"I just asked the spirits to chill it while slowly stirring."

".....Is that so?"

There's no point saying anything more.....No, just let me say one thing.

Do you think by just saying you asked the spirits that explains anything!?

.....Fuu. I've calmed down a little. Let's put aside Alice's cheat for the time being, and try the cake and ice cream.

"Alice, can I cut the cake?"

"Ah, I'll cut it."

"O-okay...."

Does she think I'll mess up cutting the cake!? Don't you just need to cut it with a knife like usual? Ah, I feel a little sorry for getting so defensive.

"Still, it's beautifully done."

I mutter while looking at the cake after Alice had cut it. To be honest, it looks like it would be a good enough quality to be displayed in a shop window in my previous life.

“Fuufuu, I’m happy to hear you say that, it was worth practicing so much since my childhood.”

“Really, since you were a kid, huh.”

Since Saya was small, and her body was weak, she never had much opportunity to cook. So, Alice must mean that she’s been practicing cooking using knowledge from her previous life ever since she was reborn in this world.

So her cooking skill is also high. While thinking this, I took a piece of cake on the end of a fork into my mouth. A rich taste spread throughout my mouth.

“Ooh....this tastes just like a ‘strawberry’ cake, but it has no ‘strawberries’!”

“.....’Strawberries’, do you want to look for some?”

“Don’t joke around. If there is no fruit, it does feel like it’s missing something.”

“— What kind of fruit is this ‘strawberry’?”

The head chef must have been listening and called out to us.

“Umm.....It is a red, plump fruit with an acidic sweet taste, I guess?”

“Is it a bite-sized fruit that can be eaten as is?”

“Do you know of a fruit like that?”

“Yes, it sounds similar to this fruit called —”

I see. I make sure to register that word as the strawberry of this world in my brain.

“Well then, that strawberry, can you get some?”

“Yes, it’s actually time to harvest them right now. I should be able to obtain some. I can get it by noon tomorrow, does that sound good?”

“That sounds good, can you please get some?”

“Leave it to me. Hey, you guys —”

The head chef immediately had one of his subordinates submit an order.

“By the way Leon-sama, you’re making these sweets to cheer up Sophia ojou-sama, right?”

Why does he know.....eh? Maybe he heard Alice and I talking earlier.

"That's right. I wonder if I can cheer her up by holding a tea party."

"Just as I thought. Then, please, allow us to help as well."

"I'm fine with you helping.....but why do you want to?"

The story that was told to the public, is that the Grances family was attacked by extremists and these same extremists attacked the Sfir family, killing Carlos.

Nobody here should have a great opinion of me.

"The people here have been serving the Sfir family for nearly ten years. To us, Sophia ojou-sama is like a daughter."

"Daughter, huh. I was told that Sophia is incredibly shy of everyone."

"Recently that has been true, but Ojou-sama used to be bright and cheerful. She would improve the mood of anyone she came in contact with."

"So you're saying you want to help cheer up Sophia?"

"Yes, Carlos-sama passed away and Elyse-sama has become bedridden. We've heard that she has been sulking for some time now, so we wanted to try to improve her mood."

"If you say you want to help with the tea party....can you please taste this? I want to tailor it to Sophia's tastes."

"Yes, of course — You all, you heard what he said. Follow their instructions and bake a cake, we will cheer up Sophia ojou-sama."

"—YES!!"

All of the chefs and other employees in the kitchen replied in unison.

.....What is this. Sophia said she couldn't rely on anyone else, but there are plenty of people who care about her.

Everyone's feelings need to be conveyed properly.

Learning to make new sweets was a success. We will hold a tea party tomorrow, and I have someone tell Sophia the time of the tea party.

After that, I went back to my room and spent some time relaxing with Alice.

“Fuu~n, then Alice, did you also gather a lot of knowledge while you were in the hospital?”

“Yep, there were many things I wanted to do if I had a healthy body. I would look at the scenery from the window imagining many things everyday.”

“Ah, that scenery. You and I were looking at the same box garden, it seems it can really get a person’s imagination going.”

“Right, I know just what you mean —”

Alice laughs happily.

It’s been awkward between us for a while now, so it’s been a long time since we were able to spend time relaxing like this...Yeah, it really is fun spending time with Alice.

As I begin to reminisce, there was a knock on the door.

“— It’s Michelle, can I come in?”

.....Michelle? As in Claire’s maid, Michelle? She was safe? Rather, I wonder how long she’s been in the Sfir mansion.

“Leon-sama, can I enter?”

“Ah, the doors open, please come in.”

I hurry up and answer. I held my breath as she entered, it was the Michelle that I knew. I unconsciously stand up from the sofa and greet Michelle.

“Michelle, you’re safe.”

“Excuse me for my long absence, Leon-sama. Oh, and you as well, Alice-san.”

“It’s been a long time, Michelle.”

We exchanged simple greetings and I asked how Michelle had been.

“Actually, I was taken by the Sfir family at the same time as Claire-sama.”

“Eh, really? This is the first time I’ve seen you here.”

“Yes. I went to a village, following Claire-sama’s instructions.”

“.....A village?”

A faint hope appears in my mind. At the same time, Michelle signalled to someone outside of the room. A woman poked her head into the room. After I saw her face I was left breathless.

“.....Leon-sama, it’s good to see you again.”

Her brown hair gently shakes and she shows a gentle smile. She has distinctive purple eyes, it was the person I hoped to meet again someday, my mother.

“Leon-sama? Is it possible, you’ve forgotten me?”

“.....I could.....I could never forget about you.”

I only found out that Milli was my mother after we were separated following the influenza outbreak. But now I know Milli is my mother.

— She’s my mother. It’s been a long time, how has she been? I’ve wanted to see her for the longest time. Even though these words are in my mind, I’m lost for words.

And —

“Mother!”

The person that ran up to Milli shouting this — was Alice.....Why?

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## Chapter 1-5: Mother-in-Law

“.....You?”

Milli tilted her head curiously as Alice ran towards her.

“Nice to meet you, Mother. I am Alistair.”

Alice grabs the hem of her skirt and politely curtsied.

The gesture is elegant, but this situation is strange. When did Milli become your mother? Possibly, does she mean mother-in-law?

As I thought this, Alice grabbed her hair ornament and removed it.

I can’t tell from behind, but I’m guessing the color of her eyes has changed. Her hair ornament has inscription magic on it, by removing the ornament the true color of her eyes is revealed. Milli and Michelle both gasped.

“Those eyes.....are you one of the legendary high elves?”

“I’m a genetic throwback, so I have the powers of a high elf. Please, call me Alice.”

“Alice...sama?”

“No, just Alice is fine, Mother.”

“About you calling me mother.....”

And Milli quickly glanced at me.

“Yes, I’ve become very intimate with Leon.”

Muaaaaaa, this girl, she’s filled the outer moat! It’s too late the damage is done! (TN: “filled the outer moat,” basically means lowered one’s defenses.)

Milli happily began to talk to Alice with a, “Is that so!?” As I was watching them with a bitter face, Alice came running to my side.

“Leon, introduce me properly to your mother.”

I shouldn’t introduce you at all. Don’t think I’ll forgive you just because you’re cutely tilting your head to the side.

"Hey, hey, hurry up."

"Wha-, stop pulling on my arm."

Even though I'm struggling, Alice dragged me in front of Milli.

".....Leon-sama, it's been a long time."

"Ah...yeah."

I still couldn't bring myself to say anything — As I stood there speechless, Alice poked me in the side with her elbow.

Wh-that hurts, that hurts a lot! Alice forcibly jabs her elbow into me, we're right in front of Milli, ah, is she laughing at me!?

Ah, mou, I get it, I understand!

"Ahem.....It's been a long time. Also, you don't need to use honorifics, umm..... Mother."

Milli held her breath at my words. Now that I've started talking, I'm just going to tell her everything.

"Though you've probably heard from Michelle, many things have happened since we last saw each other. Many good things, and even more terrible things, but there is no longer any need for you to pretend to just be my caretaker, Mother."

".....Leon? Really, is it really okay?"

"Yes, it's the truth, Mother. For everything.....I'm sorry for all of the hardships I've caused you."

"Aaa~! Leon, Leon!"

Milli hugged me tight.

"Mother....."

Michelle had brought Milli to me, at the instructions of Claire.

I thanked Alice for pushing me to talk properly with Milli. I let myself enjoy Milli's warmth, which I hadn't felt for several years.  
After the emotional reunion.

Once we had calmed down some, we decided to talk while having some tea.

“Milli, you’ve spent the last few years in your hometown, how has it been?”

“Hmm, have you already stopped calling me Mother?”

“.....Maybe at a different time.”

It makes me embarrassed to think about hugging and crying with Milli. My appearance may be that of a ten year old, but my mental age is nearly thirty.

Alice knows this and I’d feel embarrassed while she’s around.

Ah, but I can just say I cried to fit the childish body I’m in. Yeah, I can just tell Alice that.

“So, how was life in your hometown?”

“Oh, right. Fortunately, I had some money saved up from working at the mansion, so this was able to cover my living expenses. I spent most of my time there helping the village Chief.”

“Helping the village Chief?”

“Yes. I helped out doing various things around the village. I did similar work while I was your maid, Leon.”

“I see.....”

Milli knows maths and is able to read, so she could be considerably helpful to a village. After all, the education level of this world is quite low.

“When I went to pick you up, you were surrounded by men from the village, right?”

“What.....”

I received an unbelievable shock from Michelle’s words.

With Milli — the shadow of a man with my Mother? No, my father, Robert, is no longer in this world. Besides, Milli had been neglected for a long time because she was Father’s mistress.

If Milli wants to start a new family, should I support her? No, if they’re after Milli’s money or her body, I can’t permit it.

First I'd need to put them through a test to determine if they're a suitable partner — Ah, but that would be just like being forced into a political marriage, disregarding Milli's own wishes!?

—Kuu, should I leave the decision to Milli? But that makes me feel uneasy about it! Uwaaaaaa, what should I do!?

"Leon? What's wrong with you?"

"No, I haven't prepared myself for this conversation yet."

"I'll be here to watch you grow up, so you don't need to worry about anything, okay?"

"I'm happy, but then Milli's happiness....."

Rather, is Milli happy just watching over me? But that may just be me conveniently interpreting her words. Thinking about Milli herself —

".....Otouto-kun is suffering as usual."

"Isn't that obvious!? Of course, I want Milli to be as happy as possible! But, I'm not the one that will make Milli most happy! I have to entrust that to someone else! It's so frustrating — wh-Claire!? When did you get here!?"

I finally come to my senses and realize Claire is now here.

"I came with Michelle. I read the mood and decided to stay quiet."

"Is that so...."

Was I saying "Mother, Mother" near Claire? It's only been about two months since she lost her parents.

"Claire. Umm.....I'm sorry."

"Hmm? Oh.....my family is Michelle and you. So, don't worry about me, I'm fine."

She says this and laughs a little lonely. What is this? I'm still worried about her.

But, if I keep pushing her, it will probably make Claire even more sad. Well.....this time I'll take advantage of Claire's kindness.

"Umm, anyway, Michelle, thank you for bringing Milli."

"Your thanks is more than I deserve. But, there is news I'd like to share with you. Things I've seen and heard while on the road to pick up Milli-san."

"Hmm? Did something happen?"

Actually – and Michelle told us about events happening in the Grances territory. It seems that there is a food shortage, and so there are cases of children being sold into slavery to reduce the number of mouths to feed.

"What is the cause of the food shortage?"

"In addition to a lack of rain this year, there is another outbreak of influenza, due to this the food stores are almost completely exhausted."

".....Because of the influenza outbreak, the food is running low?"

I don't understand how the two are related.

"Isn't it because the main food source during winter is from hunting?"

"It is as Alice-san says."

Ah, that makes sense. The food stores would be increased by hunting during the winter, but with the number of people requiring bed rest increasing, there is much less food being brought in by hunters.

"We could try lowering taxes.....but that wouldn't help with the current situation. — Are we able to provide food in anyway?"

The last part I direct towards Claire.

"The food shortage is only affecting the Grances area and its surrounding territories, so we could buy food."

"Well, this time we can get through this by purchasing food.....Why was the amount of crops harvested so low? Shouldn't there be measures taken to prevent this kind of situation?"

"I hope we can implement some later, but now they usually just clear the dead crops and replant the same crops in the same field. Most likely the harvest will decrease again in a few years."

"Then, is that.....repeated cultivation damage?"

I asked Alice this after hearing Claire's explanation, and she gave me a small nod.

So that is the case. I wasn't sure, because I don't fully understand this world's agriculture, but Alice has travelled this world for years, so it must be true.

"Umm, what is repeated cultivation damage?"

Claire asked a question that appeared to be on everyone's mind.

"Roughly speaking, if you continue to plant the same crops in the same field, the yield will decrease. There will also be nutritional deficiencies, but there are ways to fix this."

"I've never heard of it, but....if otouto-kun says so, it must be true."

"Right, Alice should be able to give you the information needed to prevent it. Now, the real question is what to do about the children that have already been sold. Even if we are able to provide the people with food, the children that have been sold can't be returned...."

After I said this, Michelle looked puzzled.

"Why? If they have food, can the people not use the money they got for selling their children, to buy them back?"

"Slavery is still a business. I'm guessing there will be an increased price for the cost of keeping the slaves alive. I doubt they'd be able to buy them back at the same price."

On the contrary, they sold their children out of desperation. If they sold them for dirt-cheap, I'd guess they would cost more than double to buy back.

"Then....could you purchase them to become a servant of the Grances family?"

"If it was only a couple people, it may be possible. But, for so many? No matter how you look at it, it's not possible. Besides, I can't hire dozens of people when there is currently no work for them to do. If I were to do something like that, everyone would think they can just bring their children and have the Grances family take care of them."

"You're....right....."

Michelle looked down while biting her lip. I can empathize with her, but I wonder what she saw when she went to pick up Milli.

There definitely seems to be something on her mind.....would it be okay to just ask her directly? Maybe I can ask Claire about it later.

So the problem is, what to do about the children. I can't calm down knowing these children have been sold into slavery. I need to go back to the Grances territory and seriously think of some solution.

"I've decided. I'll return to the Grances territory the day after tomorrow. Once there, I'll find a way to help those children."

"You can.....help them?"

"Just like I said at the beginning, the problem is what to do about the children. The problem isn't simple enough to be solved with just money, but I will try to think of something else. So, please wait for a little bit."

If I was thinking about the children as my first priority, I should go back now and find a way to help them. But, Sophia is important to me. I can't just leave Sophia as she is.

So, tomorrow I will dedicate all of my time to Sophia. Once Sophia is saved, I will return home and find a way to save the people of the Grances territory.

And so, mission complete.

## Chapter 1-6: Tea Party

Although it would've been ideal to hold the tea party in the courtyard, but, despite this area usually being warm, it was a bit too chilly to have a tea party outside.

So it was decided the tea party would be held in the drawing room.

That's why, at around 3 p.m. I headed to the drawing room with Sophia.

"Leon onii-chan, what are we going to do in the drawing room?"

"We're having a tea party."

"A tea party....then there will be other people?"

Sophia suddenly stopped walking while still holding onto my hand. I also stopped and turned to look her in the eyes.

"Sophia, are you scared to meet with other people?"

".....yes."

"Why?"

"Because....both Mother and Father thought Sophia was a monster.....so everyone else must feel the same way, right?"

"I don't think so. Even the sweets we have for the tea party, why do you think everyone in the kitchen helped make them?"

"That's just because they were helping Leon onii-chan."

When Sophia still didn't believe me, I playfully dishevelled her golden hair.

"Noo~....those people definitely weren't afraid of Sophia. After all, I'm not afraid of Sophia."

"Leon onii-chan is special."

"Even so....."

When Sophia suddenly killed her father I was scared.

But, that was only because Sophia felt the same sorrow and pain I had felt. I

knew she was angry for me, so I'm no longer afraid.

In other words, I was scared because I didn't know what Sophia was thinking at that time. And so, I feel Sophia's parents would've felt the same way.

Still, it would be difficult for Sophia to understand that. So, I will proceed with the original plan.

"I know you're feeling uneasy about this, but it will be fine. I've only invited one person you know you can trust."

".....One person? Maybe, Claire onee-chan?"

Oh, so Sophia feels she can trust Claire. That's good to know. I'll make sure to invite Claire when I next have a tea party.

However, Claire was busy with work this time.

"I'm talking about Alistair....When I snuck into Sophia's room, do you remember the girl that was with me?"

"Ah....right. That onee-san that was with you."

"Right. That onee-san, you're okay with her, right?"

"Ummmm....."

She doesn't seem to hate the idea. Although she doesn't seem entirely against it, she's definitely still uneasy about Alice being there. Then, let's try one final push.

"In fact, Alice knows how to make many sweets. So there are many different sweets waiting for you at the tea party."

"Many sweets....are they all delicious like that pudding?"

"They're even more delicious."

"Sweets that are more delicious than pudding....."

"Yep, and there are three different kinds."

"Three kinds....."

"One of them is a shortcake, it has a soft, fluffy texture and is topped with strawberries and decorated with a sweet cream. Next, there's a sweet, vanilla

ice cream that will just melt in your mouth. It even has a richer flavour than pudding —”

“Leon onii-chan!”

“Yes? Is something wrong?”

“We must go to the tea party right now!”

Easy.

.....Wait, seriously, wasn't that way too easy? I thought her trauma was quite serious, but if she's like this, she could return to society immediately.

“Hey, Sophia. If you're okay with it, maybe we can invite other people?”

“— Absolutely not!”

“Okay.....but, you're fine with Alice?”

“When I read that onee-san's mind, it was very nice. So, if it's just that onee-san it should be fine.”

So, was it the combination of the sweets and the fact that she feels she can trust Alice? If Sophia doesn't want it, I guess I can't invite anyone else.

“I understand, only Alice will be there. Let's enjoy tea with just the three of us.”

And so, the tea party with just us three began.

“Fuwaaaaa~, what is this sweet snack, it melts in my mouth!”

“Fufuun~, that's called vanilla ice cream. Ah, try this cake as well.”

“Mmm~, it's so sweet and really tasty! What is this, it's amazing Alice onee-chan!”

Sophia was in pure ecstasy from the sweets. At first, she was wary of Alice, and her face was a bit stiff. But now, Alice has completely won her over with the sweets.

She's not completely over her trauma, but with this, she's no longer completely dependent on me.

—I continued to drink tea while thinking about this.

By the way, I never noticed, because I never had a hobby of brewing tea in my previous life, but the tea in this world isn't very good.

But that has changed now that Alice is here.....No, that's changed ever since I first drank Alice's tea.

Anyway, to make good tea, there are many factors one needs to consider. Such as temperature, convection, and the water used.

First of all, use boiling water so that the water stays as hot as possible while brewing the tea. Also, make sure the water used is soft water and to brew the tea in a round container.

And this is how to make delicious tea.....To start with, there is no tableware in this world capable of boiling water and then retaining that heat for a long period of time. And naturally, there is no pot that is designed with convection in mind.

Finally, I'm not sure whether or not the water in this area is soft water, but the well water we've been using is questionable.

So even if the tea leaves are of a good quality, it's impossible to draw out the natural flavour of the black tea.

—Unless Alice uses her cheat.

She is able to keep the temperature high using spirits, and she can also use the spirits to increase convection. And so, the tea that Alice was able to make was of such a high quality, that even the Sfir family's maids wanted to become her disciples.

Of course, I also like it a lot.

If the quality has improved so much, it may even be possible to sell it. So, I think it would be nice to open something similar to a cafe once I return to the Grances territory.

"Well then, Alice onee-chan is Leon onii-chan's lover?"

"Not yet, but that is what I'm planning."

.....Hey, what are you talking about while people are trying to enjoy tea.

"That must be nice.....Sophia was supposed to marry Leon onii-chan, but not anymore."

The atmosphere suddenly froze.

What kind of bomb did this child just drop? No, that certainly is true. Well, the marriage was for political reasons in the first place.

Rather, Alice has said some strange things to her. What is Sophia going to do?

Stay calm, cheer up — huh? No, this is bad. Maybe she thinks Alice is saying, "Do you really think you can win against me?" Sophia might feel like Alice is provoking her.

So, for example.....Do you really think Leon can find someone better than me — hmm? That's definitely not it. From Sophia's point of view, that would sound like sarcasm.

Honestly, I think there's no easy way out of this situation. No matter what anyone says now, they will likely be stepping on a landmine.

As I thought this, Alice began to speak while showing a big smile.

"Then, maybe I can work with Sophia-chan?" —hah?

.....Wh...what does she mean by that?

Does Alice intend to step down for Sophia? Or is she just joking? If so, she'll hurt Sophia.

While I remained confused, these two continued their conversation.

"Alice onee-chan is that okay?"

"It's like I said. I'm still planning. Leon wants to resist being with his younger sister. So, this way, I can start to weaken his morals by having him be with a sister-in-law."

What kind of terrifying things are you saying!?!?

Rather, don't just flatly say younger sister. Not everyone knows about our reincarnation.

"I don't really understand.....but will it really be a good thing?"

“Of course, let’s capture Leon together!”

This is bad, I don’t fully understand what Alice is planning, but I definitely understood the bad parts. As I was contemplating escaping this room, there was a knock on the door.

“Please come in!”

I immediately call out to whoever is knocking.

Really, since Sophia is here, I should’ve left the room to speak to whoever is here.

But, I was rather frustrated and not thinking straight. Honestly, I thought by having someone come in, the conversation would hopefully end.

As a result, when a maid entered the room, Sophia’s expression immediately hardened. She then ran to me and hid behind my back.

“.....Umm? May I speak?”

“Ah, sorry. Did you need Sophia for something?”

“Yes, Sophia ojou-sama, Patrick-sama is here.”

Sophia began to tremble as she hid behind my back.

“Sophia?”

I turned toward her and asked in a low voice.

“...I don’t want to see him, tell him to leave.”

“Is he a bad person?”

“.....He won’t listen to anything Sophia says, I hate him because he only thinks about himself.”

I see. This guy seems to have a rather unpleasant personality. I definitely don’t want her meeting with someone like that today.

“Sophia does not seem to want to meet with him. Can you come up with a reason for her not to see him?”

I told the maid this in place of Sophia.

“Well.....umm....”

"Does this person not easily take no for an answer?"

".....Yes. Patrick-sama is a viscount from the Rodwell family. Originally they were of a lower rank than the Sfir family, but since he is related to the marquis of the Gramp family....."

Even worse, he is related to the marquis of Gramp. I don't want to get involved with any of them now that I've cancelled Claire's engagement.

"Do you know why he's here?"

"Uhh.....well..."

The maid glimpses at Sophia. Obviously, it has something to do with Sophia. I ask Sophia for permission to hear the reason.

"You have Sophia's permission."

"Then, actually....."

And the maid revealed to me that Patrick had proposed to Sophia.

It seems after he heard Sophia had become engaged, he stopped pursuing her. But, he's returned now that he knows that engagement was broken off.

By the way, I've been told he is four years older than me, so he's fourteen years old. Sophia is seven, so he's double her age. It seems this isn't a political marriage, Patrick wants to marry Sophia.

It may not be my place to say anything, but if he truly likes her, that's not a bad thing. But, if Sophia hates him, he's out no matter what.

"Okay I understand, and Sophia, you don't want to see him no matter what?"

".....Can I kill him?"

"I thought we already decided that is never an option!"

Making terrifying remarks with such a cute face, this kid....

More importantly, I don't think she was joking. She was full of guilt after killing her father, but maybe she feels like it's fine to kill people that she isn't close with.

For now, they absolutely cannot meet.

"Tell him we're sorry, but he'll have to come back another day. If that doesn't work, tell Eric-san about what's happening."

"Yes, I understand."

The maid bowed and left the room.

"Sophia?"

I try to speak with her, but her expression remains stiff. Even though she had been cheerful until a moment ago, she's now returned to how she was yesterday.

Hmm. This Patrick really has terrible timing.

"You don't have to worry anymore. He's been told to return home."

"....But, he will definitely come back."

That....is probably true. It was only the other day that I cancelled our engagement. So, he must have rushed over here immediately. He must be considerably devoted to Sophia.

Besides....he is connected with the marquis of Gramp. Carlos has only recently died, and Eric is still rather young. Sophia may not be able to refuse Patrick's proposal if he becomes more forceful.

It would be bad if I just left things as they are. I was unsure of what to do. I wanted Sophia to become less dependent on me, but if things are like this I don't have much choice.

"Hey, Sophia, listen to me for a moment. Tomorrow, I plan on returning to the Grances territory."

"Eh....Leon onii-chan, you're going home? You'll be back again soon, right?"

"No, I won't be able to return for quite some time. There are many things I need to take care of there."

The moment I said this, Sophia was on the verge of crying. That's why I continued with "So—"

"Will you become my little sister?"

"....Eh, what do you mean? You're the head of the Grances family now, so you

can't be adopted into the Sfir family now, right?"

"That's true. That's why, Sophia can be adopted into the Grances family. Eric-san has given me permission as long as you want to. So, the decision is yours, Sophia."

"....If I become your adopted sister, will I be together with Leon onii-chan forever?"

"Yep."

"Then I'll become your little sister! I want to be Leon onii-chan's little sister and stay together!"

".....I understand. Well then, Sophia is now officially my adopted sister. If anything threatens Sophia I will protect you. I will never make Sophia sad."

Now, to return to the Grances territory and help the children that were sold into slavery. I also need to prevent any more children from being sold.

Then, I will create an environment that will allow everyone in the Grances territory to live happily.

I swear on my life I will do it. I will improve the Grances territory enough so that even the marquis of Gramp can not touch Sophia. (TN: 'I swear on my life I will do it' is supposed to be a play on the title of the series. A more literal translation would be something like, "How can I have any self-respect," but that sounds rather awkward.)

I will definitely get the happiness that I want.

# Chapter 2-1: Domestic Affairs Meeting

Sophia became my adopted sister, and now we were returning to the Grances mansion.

However, we will not be living there. I would rather stay in a more familiar place. In the first place, the wooden part of the mansion is burnt. So, the mansion is not in a state for people to be living.

That's why we were now sitting in the living room of the guest house.

We were meeting to decide on the actions needed to completely reform the domestic affairs of the Grances territory.

"Let's start with the problems currently affecting the Grances territory."

I stop my words there and look at each of the people in attendance.

First, there's Claire, the temporary head of the family. Then, there's Milli and Michelle acting as our assistants.

Alice, with her knowledge from another world, and Sophia....is the healing officer? Currently, she's hiding behind my back. (TN: I think healing officer is an MMO term.)

I told her it was fine to hide — but Sophia seems to be slowly opening up to the other members here. It's probably due to the carriage ride lasting several hours, and the other members were chatting a little the entire time.

Anyway, first things first, today's agenda.

"Problems we're facing now, first off, is the drop in production of food. This has led to several families being forced to sell their children to reduce the number of mouths they have to feed. Then, about the part of the mansion that has been burned down and the servants that were forced to leave. Finally....the influenza outbreak."

I cut my words there and asked Claire for her report on the measures taken to increase food production.

"Regarding the drop in food production, because otouto-kun provided a

solution, we're currently waiting to find out the results. I already know of the basic countermeasures of influenza.....but is there nothing else that can be done?"

"Well...."

The part of the house the servants lived in is in pretty bad shape, so I'd like to do something if possible....but there are too many people, so it's impossible to do anything immediately.

As for medicine, I feel it's impossible to create anything like that.

"If we keep the infected people relaxed in a good environment and keep them well fed and rested that will be enough to treat the disease."

"So you're saying, if we solve the issue of influenza, this will also solve the food shortage?"

"Not exactly."

Even though the food shortage has been a common issue, it seems the influenza outbreak had been a rare occurrence. So, not every food shortage has been caused by an outbreak of a disease.

I've heard that trade with foreign countries has recently become popular, so I think that is the main cause, but I also think that a decline in the amount of food produced each year has led to these food shortages.

"Well then...Next is protection of the servants. There are people already negotiating with them, but, at least for now, we have confirmed the safety of everyone."

"Ah, is that so!? Then, please continue the negotiations."

That's good. That was something I was very concerned about. If any of the missing servants had died, it truly would have been horrible.

"Now, about the mansion that has been burned. The wooden sections have been completely burned, but the stone foundation is fine. So, if we repair the mansion, it will be livable."

"I see. Then, please, start the repairs. Though, I don't plan on living there."

“.....Eh? Why?”

“That place has a lot of bad memories for me. Besides — that building represents this territory, it feels strange to live there. So, I’m thinking about building a mansion of my own.”

“Wait a minute, otouto-kun? The territory is suffering from a food shortage. How do you plan to justify the head of the family building such a luxury for himself?”

Claire’s tone is rather disapproving. Michelle is also looking at me with disgusted eyes.

But, Alice and Milli were listening to me calmly. These two probably understand what I’m thinking.

“Milli, why aren’t you angry?”

When I asked Milli to explain for me, she showed a big smile.

“I already decided. No matter what, I’ll believe that Leon is doing the right thing.”

“....Eh, is that your reason?”

“Yes. I said before, I’m always on Leon’s side.”

“....Ah, right, thank you. But, still Milli, I do make mistakes. So, it’s best if you think for yourself if what I’m doing is right.....”

“You’re right. That’s why I decided to think for myself and believe in Leon.”

No, that’s completely different than what I said.

I give up....though, I’m glad that she trusts me so much. We’ve only just met again after such a long time, I feel that Milli has become an over-fond parent.

Well I was unable to call her mother for a long time, because we have been separated for the last few years. It’s only natural that I’d want to act like a child with her.....right?

Anyway, it seems like Milli really doesn’t understand what I’m planning.

I turn my gaze to Alice.

Alice is a reincarnator just like me. She has traveled all over this world, she surely understands my thinking in this.

“Alice, please explain to everyone.”

“Right, everyone’s thinking the same thing, right? What Leon said is completely wrong.”

“Aliceeee!”

“I’m joking. It was just a joke, so please stop crying.”

“I wasn’t crying. Please, explain it to them properly.”

I stare at Alice with scornful eyes and Alice just shrugged her shoulders at me. No, that should be my reaction.

“To avoid future food shortages, the best solution is to increase the amount of food harvested each year. However, we can’t do this immediately, and so, we can’t help everyone right away, right?”

“Because it takes time for these crops to grow with the new countermeasures, right?”

“Yep, it’s exactly as Claire said.”

Alice gave a friendly smile towards Claire.

Until recently Alice had called Claire, “Claire-sama.” It seems that once Alice was freed from slavery, they started getting along more.

Though, for some reason, I have a bad feeling.....It’s a good thing that my sister from this world and my sister from my previous life are getting along.....right?

“Now then, based on what’s been said, I have a question for everyone. What would you do if you had no bread to eat?”

“Even if you ask what we’d do.....we don’t know the answer.”

Claire tilts her head and looks puzzled.

“....If there is no bread, I wish I could eat sweets.”

Sophia softly muttered this behind my back.

Sophia, I'd be killed If I were to say that now.

There is also a belief in my previous life, that Marie-sama said something similar to this. Though, I think it would be bad to just say that outright.

Well if my expectations are correct, then Alice's answer is also too cruel.

"Leon, what is the answer?"

"If you have no bread to eat, then all you have to do is buy some with money, do you understand?"

"Well, that makes sense. Could you explain more?"

I was thinking about letting Alice explain, but it seems she's unsure as well. I'm not very good at explaining...but it seems like there's no choice.

"The food shortage is only impacting the Grances territory and its surrounding areas. Which means, if you have money you can buy food."

However, in this world trade between different territories isn't commonplace. Even with money, it will be difficult for the people to obtain food.

Well, we should be able to fix that part.

"I understand your thinking, but.....it doesn't make sense. This would require everyone to have money."

"Exactly, Claire is correct. Which brings us back to what we were originally talking about. We will create jobs for the people by building the mansion and paying them for it. At least this way the people can afford to buy food."

"I see, that's why you said you wanted to build a new mansion."

"Yep, and if the people began to generate excess wealth other businesses will begin to thrive."

This is the main reason, but the old mansion really was an inconvenient place to live. The buildings of this world are really difficult to live in compared to the buildings of Japan.

"In addition to the reclamation jobs, I think we can create various other jobs, such as the production of new crops and developing iron products. With the food aid, we will be fine for a while."

That still leaves one problem....and I look at Michelle.

Michelle's face looks very serious. It's probably because the matter of the children sold into slavery has yet to be discussed.

I want to do something, but I can't think of any solution.

If they were sold for the purpose of reducing the number of mouths to feed, they should be small children that aren't able to work. Dozens of children like this, some work they can do for a long time....work?

As I was lost in thought, my eyes met with Alice.

"Hey, Leon, to do all of those jobs you mentioned earlier, we're really lacking in qualified people, right?"

"Eh, so are you saying we should hire people?"

"That's not it. Do you think it's best to go from each town or village, explaining to each individual person how to avoid repeated cultivation damage, how to avoid diseases, or how to use new farming tools?"

"Ah, right....it would be rather difficult to properly explain everything to every village and town. It would make more sense to gather people together and give them a proper education."

Alice looked at the ground and showed a gentle smile. Apparently, she had been trying to give me a small hint. No, not at all small.

"Claire, buy the children that were sold into slavery."

"Sure, I don't mind, but....is that really okay? I'm sure they will only sell them at an increased price."

"It's fine. Spread word that I will be gathering a lot of children at the end of the year. Initially we'll only be covering their living expenses, but in the future they will be paid a salary. Any families considering selling their children should try to hold off until the end of the year."

If you were to sell your children to slavers, you'd only receive a small immediate payment. However, if you were to leave your child in the care of the Grances family, you can expect to see a new source of income in the future.

And either way results in less mouths to feed.

If their situation isn't too dire, they should definitely choose the latter. And if we provide them with food, they should never be that desperate.

With this, the issue of children being sold into slavery should be solved.

"If you do not take care of the children at the end of the year, you will be blamed for everything."

"I will definitely gather them, so it's fine."

"Gather....what are you going to do with so many children?"

"I will start a school, a place where they can learn specialized knowledge. Once they're old enough, I will send them out to various places in the Grances territory so they can begin working."

"Learn specialized knowledge at school....considering the children are all around the same age as otouto-kun....hmm? Then there shouldn't be any problem."

"Please calm down, Leon-sama is definitely not normal for his age, Claire-sama."

"Ah, that's true. A normal child is more unreliable."

"He's definitely a bad representation of a child."

Who's bad? Or should I say, why is Michelle looking at me like that? It's a little shocking.

And Sophia, stop saying, "Onii-chan is unusual," over and over behind me. Compared to Alice I'm just a regular person.

"I understand your concerns, but it is easier for young children to retain knowledge. It will be fine. I only plan on teaching them reading, writing, basic math and some form of specialized knowledge."

In addition, the children of this world mature earlier than those of Japan. To be honest, I think the severe environment of this world is the cause of this.

So, I believe if they work hard for a year they should be able to manage.

"Well, if otouto-kun says it will be okay, it must be true...but, what exactly is

the specialized knowledge you plan on teaching?”

“Well, first off, I plan to teach them basic countermeasures against repeated cultivation damage. As well as flood control, construction, and how to make fertilizer. I also plan to teach them other, more advanced techniques such as: medical, new clothing and accessories, new ways of making clothing, cooking, and finally more advanced smithing techniques.”

“.....Umm, I don’t quite believe it, but....you’re saying you know of new, advanced techniques for everything you just mentioned?”

“Hmm~.....well, yeah. Maybe, I just have a different view of the world than everyone else?”

“....See, I told you. Hey, Michelle, what do you think I should do? Otouto-kun is too amazing, I don’t even know where to start with him.”

“I understand now, Claire-sama. Dare I say, his very existence is amazing.”

.....Don’t talk about someone like they aren’t even here. Are you trying to make me cry?

Well, since I do have memories from my previous life, Michelle’s words aren’t wrong.

“For now, Alice and I will begin preparing our lessons and gather what we need to begin teaching. So, the question now is what to do for the next year.”

“You’re planning on doing something else before educating the children?”

“Yes. The children will not finish their education by the time we next begin planting the fields. So, it would be a waste to do nothing in the meantime. For now, I will try to teach basic countermeasures to the farmers.”

Then, the next harvest will hopefully be better than the last.

Also, by doing this, the farmers would have already seen some results. So, they should be more accepting of the children when I send them out to various villages.

There should be no disadvantage for doing this.

First of all, we will teach the minimum required knowledge to skilled

employees and send them out to villages before the fields are next planted. This will improve the next harvest a little. Then, over the next year, we will educate the children to help out the territory in the future.

After that, I plan on opening a real school for children in the Grances territory.

"Well then, first of all, where will the school be built?"

"How about we repair the mansion that burned down? The foundation is still in good condition, so it can be repaired quickly. I also think the location is good because it's in the center of town."

"I'm sorry, Claire. Considering any future plans, I need to think on a bigger scale."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, we have plans to build a school building and mansion. Then, there's new fields with canals. After that, paved roads throughout the town and a sewer system connecting the various production facilities."

After I laid out all of my future plans, Claire looked at me, stunned.

"Are you planning on remodeling the entire town? Doing this will require a considerable amount of money and workforce."

"We don't need to complete everything right away. If we are only able to build a school building and fields within a year, that will be enough. I plan on creating a city that will be a model for future cities to be based on."

"An entire city? Hey, are we going to have enough money?"

"I don't know the exact costs, but....we have the money being paid to us from the Sfir family. With the other sources of revenue, we should be fine for many years."

"Hmm.....With the compensation from them and any tax revenue we should be able to manage....Is there anything else we may have to worry about paying for?"

"For now everything should be covered. As long as the food support we are buying is not cut off, we should be fine."

Even though things may be tight at first, as long as my knowledge of agriculture is correct, the amount of food harvested from each farm should increase over the years. This will lead to the tax revenue also increasing and we will have plenty of money.

I know that using the knowledge from my previous life will produce results — because I can predict this, I also know that we will receive more revenue in the future, so it's possible for me to make these decisions now.

"Alright, I understand, but where do you plan on building then? Maybe near the river where there is a lot of flat land?"

"I'm thinking about building everything in the Muhle Plains."

About an hour north on a horse-drawn carriage from here, there is an area with mountains, forests, and rivers. It is the best land in our territory. The area is an amazing place, and it's honestly strange that there is no town there already.

"Muhle Plains, huh? Well.....that does seem like a good place."

"Okay, then it's decided. Alice and I will work with craftsmen to come up with blueprints for the buildings and farmlands, and Claire can begin finding engineers."

"I understand, I'll make the arrangements soon."

"Yep, I'm counting on you."

"Just leave it to your onee-chan."

Claire said this as she left the room. I then turned my eyes to Michelle.

"Michelle, buy the children that were sold into slavery. We will also need adults to help out at first, so recruit any of the servants that wish to help, any servants that help will also be paid extra."

"How many people do you think you will need?"

"At least ten people. Recruit more if possible. In the meantime, I will make a list of seeds and livestock that need to be purchased from the country."

At first....we will mainly plant crops that grow quickly. After some time has

passed, we will begin planting crops that produce more luxury items, such as sugarcane — and so, I think of things we need to buy,

“Then, I will begin finding servants that wish to help.”

“Okay, I’m counting on you.”

As Michelle leaves to start on her task, I turned to Milli.

“I’m sorry, but can I ask you for something Milli?”

“Of course, please don’t hesitate to ask me for anything.”

“Thank you. We plan to teach the children basic knowledge like reading and writing. So, we will also be teaching you more specialized knowledge to help teach the children later on.”

“Say no more. I’ll be sure to live up to your expectations.”

“Thanks, I believe in you.”

Then.....I turned my eyes to Sophia who had been hiding behind me. For now, it will be hard to ask Sophia for anything.

Even so, I can’t just exclude her entirely.....let’s see.

“Sophia, do you want to learn things from Milli like the other children?”

“....Milli-san?”

Sophia timidly looks at Milli.

“Yes. She’s my mother, you know that she is very kind, right?”

“Umm....if Sophia learns from Milli-san will Leon onii-chan be happy?”

“Yep, if Sophia can learn a lot it will be a great help.”

“I understand. Sophia will study her best and learn a lot!”

“That’s good. Then, do your best.”

I say that and stroke Sophia’s head. Sophia showed a small smile.

We’ve now decided on our future plans, we will teach all kind of new techniques to the people of the Grances territory.

And Alice and I will begin to teach the children everything we know. Our

domestic affairs cheat would be the beginning of a revolution in the Grances territory.

## Chapter 2-2: Alice Cheat

Four months have passed since the domestic affairs meeting. It is now early summer.

I was visiting Muhle Plains, where the city was being built. By the way, the city's name is to be registered as just Muhle.

The center of the city of Muhle. Although it may sound impossible, the exteriors of the school building and the house we'll be living in are already completed.

Even with our domestic affairs cheat, this world's technology is still very primitive. Normally, there would be no chance that such a big building would be finished, even if it's just the exterior.

However, it's still a fact that the school building, mansion, and other residences are more than half-finished at this point. The cause of this isn't the domestic affairs cheat — rather, it's Alice.

Alice just needed to ask the spirits and the wood was cut into boards, the foundation was finished in an instant, and the ground would rise bringing materials to high places.

There is still plenty of work for the craftsmen to do, so it's fine.....

How do I say it, I feel that Alice, by herself, is more of a cheat than our domestic affairs cheat. No matter how you look at her, Alice's abilities are overpowered. And so, that's why I've started calling her the Alice cheat.

Calling her a cheat might sound bad, but there is no doubt that she is incredibly useful. In other words, I've made use of the Alice cheat.

And a result of the Alice cheat, a hot spring was formed near the town. I found a source for a hot spring at a nearby mountain, and I had Alice use her magic to create a hot spring.

So, now there are popular public bathrooms for both men and women. And there were also baths and footbaths prepared in each individual home.

And that's why, I'm currently relaxing in a residence that's under construction soaking my feet in a footbath.

"Fuu~....It would be nice to just spend the rest of my life soaking my feet like this."

"Leon, do you have time to take a break? Don't you need to get to the next worksite?"

Alice, who had just finished cutting more boards, poked my cheek.

No, she wasn't even by my side. She was using sensory sharing and poking her own cheek.

She's cute, but it does look rather strange seeing someone poking their own cheek.

"Hey, are you just going to sit there forever?"

"Muu~....I think it would be better to rest for a little while longer. Or maybe, Alice should take a small break with me?"

In the mornings I've been planning out the layout of the town and buildings, in the afternoons I supervised the construction of the town, and at night I've been teaching Milli. And this is how the past four months have passed.

Everyday I never had time to relax or have fun, so I think it's fine if we take some time to relax now.

"Mou, I guess it can't be helped."

Then Alice took off her shoes and lifted the hem of her skirt a little, revealing her white thighs, and sat down across from me. She then put her long and supple legs into the footbath.

"Fuufuu, it's so warm."

"See, you can't help but feel relaxed now."

"That's true. I'd like to take a break for a while anyway, using so much spirit magic has tired me out. I'm doing my best for now, but my magic won't last forever."

Spirit magic converts mana in the atmosphere into magical power, so you

never have to worry about running out of mana. Instead, you will just become physically exhausted after extended use.

Obviously, if you continuously are using magic, you will eventually pass out from exhaustion.

And, considering Alice's workload, by the time she is finished she is completely exhausted. I'm continuing to train with magic, but if I tried to do what she does, I would faint.

"Still, I feel like this city is being made little by little."

"That's true."

I look at the scenery outside the window.

Besides the school building and the mansion, the student dormitories are also being completed at a rapid pace. Although, this town is still smaller than the village the Grances family lived in, at this rate, by the spring of next year the students will have the minimum requirements to live comfortably.

"I wonder if we will need to make school uniforms soon."

I spoke about a plan I had been thinking about for some time now.

"....Eh? You're planning on making uniforms? Are plain clothes not okay?"

"What are you saying? I plan to use the graduates of this school to change this world. We need a symbol for them all to wear to make sure everyone knows they were all trained here."

"So in other words, you want to see a schoolgirl uniform?"

"....."

I just casually looked back to the scenery outside the window.

"Fuufuu, Leon is a typical boy."

Gah, even if Alice is older than me now, it's strange hearing my younger sister from my previous life say that. Or maybe I should say, it's embarrassing.

"We-well, the normal clothing of this world is unstylish, right? So, if I spread my uniforms throughout the country, it will also revolutionize the fashion of this world."

Of course there are things like dresses and maid clothes in this world, but most commoners wear something like a cloth with a hole cut into it and a string tied through to hold the cloth up. The commoner's shoes are just boots or slippers made with leather and fur.

Maybe, I'm making it sound worse than it is, but compared to the clothing from Japan I can't help but judge the clothing.

"Then, will the teachers need a separate uniform?"

"The reason I wanted to make a uniform in the first place, was for you."

"....Me?"

"That's right, you said you wanted to wear a cute school uniform one day."

The elementary school Saya went to allowed the students to wear their own clothing and she was hospitalized before starting junior high, so she was never able to wear a school uniform.

"....You mean, you remembered that?"

"Did you think I would forget something like that?"

"Is that so.....thank you, Leon. I'm incredibly happy — or I'd like to say that, but I never said 'cute school uniform.' You just want to see me in a school uniform, right?"

"Th-there's no way that's the reason."

"Fuu~n....if that's the case, I can wear pants, right?"

"Haa, that's impossible! If you're talking about a schoolgirl uniform, it has to have a skirt — right!?"

I fell for her trap. Alice's heartwarming stare is painful to me.

"It's true that girl uniforms usually have skirts, but at the school we'll be doing a lot of agricultural work and other physical labor. I can't possibly do that in a skirt."

"Muu~....then I can make a jersey."

"Do you know how many times a day we'd need to change our clothes? Everyone will get annoyed by this, and some will probably just wear the jersey

under the skirt. Is that okay?"

"That can't happen, that absolutely can't happen....Then how about making robes? We can have robes to wear when we need to do outside work."

"Well....that sounds like it may be okay."

"Do you still have problems with it?"

I thought that Alice wouldn't be too picky.....

"What about in the summer? Well, that could be fine as well. I can just inscribe magic on the robes to adjust the temperature."

Not only did Alice respond with a problem, she also provided the solution.

Furthermore,

"This is the design I came up with — a blouse with a ribbon on the back in a corset style. There will be a pleated skirt with a red and black checkerboard pattern and knee high socks. There will be a single ribbon on either thigh and the shoes could be something like knitted boots."

Suddenly, my very specific design was said out loud.

"....Hey, Alice. You don't look very pleased. Did you have some designs for the uniforms?"

"Ah, no there wasn't anything like that....Ah, by the way, the boys uniform will be a cashmere doeskin, and the girls uniform will be made of serge fabric."

"You absolutely had designs!"

"I don't know what you're talking about. By the way, I've already gathered some raw materials needed for the uniforms. It's impossible to make clothing for everyone, but with this we should be able to make high-quality uniforms for the students."

"You're already going ahead with your plans!? Thank you, for consulting me first!"

"You're just imagining things, and you're welcome."

Well, somehow, the issue of the school uniforms was decided. By the way, the boy's uniform will look similar to a butler's uniform. I told Alice I had been

thinking about the boy's uniforms as well, but that was a complete lie.

This didn't necessarily feel like a break, but it was fun.

## Chapter 2-3: Complete Defeat

After I parted with Alice, I went to the agricultural division.

Thanks to the Alice cheat, the irrigation for one of the fields has already been completed. Now the employees are just finishing up small changes here and there. It's only one field right now, but I'm guessing by next season we will be ready to start planting.

"Hmm, otouto-kun? What's wrong?"

Claire was supervising the work in the area. She came over once she noticed me.

Claire has learned a lot from Alice and I over the last few months, so she is more than capable of supervising the construction here. She seems to have become used to being the temporary head of the family.

"I'm so tired, Claire. How have things been going here?"

"Things are going well, thanks to Alice's hard work. Do you want me to show you around?"

"That's good. Then, please do."

"Then, we'll go around to the sections that are already complete."

I really don't need her to show me around. But, Claire is working so hard, so it would be nice for her to take a small break.

And like that, Claire and I were taking a pleasant walk around the field.

After a bit, we arrived at a watermill.

Water is drawn from the river into the irrigation canal. It then is spread out to the rice paddies and fields.

And in between the canal and fields, there is large pond where rainbow trout will be farmed.

"A pond was made as you instructed.....you wanted to farm fish? Is that really possible?"

"I know it's possible, but I've never done it. I'm not sure it will work right away, but after some trial and error it should work."

"But, won't you need fish food to farm the trout?"

"It's fine, there was fish food on that list I gave you."

"There was?"

"Yep, I have several things that may work, but I think the best bet are silkworms, it seems Alice found some while travelling."

By the way, silkworms can't survive in nature. So I had given up hope of finding them in this world, but....it appears when Alice was travelling in a neighboring country, she found some that were being raised.

"You're going to use them for food?"

"Yeah, silkworm cocoons can be used for silk, but when the cocoons are taken the silkworms die. So, they will just be used for fish food."

And since there are many mulberry trees in the nearby forest, there will be plenty of food for the silkworms. Furthermore, when the feces of the fish and what remains of the bait flows into the paddies and fields, it will act as a substitute fertilizer.

Besides, mulberries can be used for jam. And because the wood is high quality it can also be used to craft items. So, it's a very versatile tree.

Incidentally, this is not the Earth, so the rainbow trout, silkworms, mulberry, and everything else I mentioned earlier does not match perfectly with the things of Earth. I made sure to check that they are mostly the same before proceeding any further.

"What is silk?"

"Hmm, it's a type of thread. The silk fabric made from this thread is glossy and feels great."

"Hee~...is it so different than normal fabric?"

"It can't even be compared to the clothing we're wearing now, so please look forward to the clothes Alice will make."

"That girl, she can really do anything."

"She surprises me too."

To be honest, I didn't expect her to know how to weave. Though, I am glad she does know how to make clothing. I was expecting to have to go through a lot of trial and error when making the clothing.

"I'm looking forward to the design, perhaps it will be a design from a different world."

"That's impossible. I'm making the design currently to better fit the designs of this world....eh? Wa-wait a minute. What did you say just now?"

"Otouto-kun you're so cute."

"That's not what you just said! Didn't you say from a different world!?"

"Ah, that's right, I heard about it from Alice. You are brother and sister and you have memories from your previous lives."

".....That's surprising. Alice trusted you with that information."

I know Alice told Claire that she was a high elf after she was freed from slavery, but I didn't know she confided in her about our reincarnation.

That Alice.....I was a little shocked, so I fell silent.

"As for me, the fact that otouto-kun didn't tell me is a shock."

"Well....I'm sorry. I thought you wouldn't believe me even if I told you. You actually believe that Alice and I have memories from our previous lives?"

"It actually is pretty believable. It would explain why you know so many different things."

"....So that's the reason why?"

"Well, when we were younger I had a lot of suspicions. But, you seemed to be trying to hide something, so I tried to ask as few questions as possible."

"Is that so? Certainly, I have a lot of knowledge, but it doesn't seem so amazing that you'd think I have memories of my previous life."

Claire stood there, gently combing her platinum blonde hair. The wind caused

her hair to sway gently, but her face remained shocked.

“Otouto-kun, you need to be more aware of your lack of common sense.”

Perhaps I should be the one shocked.

Well, recently I haven’t been taking the best care of myself, but it can’t be helped.

“Anyway, I’m sorry I never said anything to you.”

“No, it’s fine, I forgive you. Rather, I just want to know one thing. The mind of Leon is a reincarnation of a boy named Yuya, right?”

“Yes, that’s right.....In my mind I am Yuya. I was born and raised as Yuya, but now I am living in the body of Leon.”

“Fumufumu, I see.”

Claire places her fingers to her mouth and seems deep in thought. For some reason, I feel like I’m not going to like what she’s thinking so deeply about.

I immediately turned around and began to run away — but, my arm was grabbed before I was able to get away.

“Otouto-kun, you should get married to me.”

“Hey! — I knew what you were thinking about was bad!”

“It’s not a bad thing, it’s something fantastic!”

“What are you saying!? I’ve said it many times before, but we are siblings!”

“What are *you* saying? Otouto-kun is Yuya, right? In other words, the mind of otouto-kun is a complete stranger to me. So, we don’t need to worry about being siblings.”

“No, no, no mentally we’re not related, but physically, we’re blood related!”

No matter what, her argument is wrong.

Nevertheless, Claire narrowed her jade eyes and looked at me disgusted.

“Otouto-kun is the worst.”

“Why?”

“Because you’re judging a girl by her body and not her mind.”

“Why are you saying it in such a dirty way!?”

Well, it is true that I’m thinking about her body rather than her mind. If most people heard just that, they would judge me the same way as Claire. However, most people would change their mind if they knew the whole story.

“Hmm~Then, because otouto-kun is Leon, you insist that we are siblings?”

“Those are the facts, right?”

“Then, if Alice and I team up there should be no problem.”

“—Wh-what....”

“Like I said, you’re opposed to being with your mentally related and blood related sister, right? But, Alice has no problem with you being related in your previous lives.”

“Why does that matter!?”

“Oh, of course it matters. Alice told you her feelings, but you’re holding off on giving her an answer, right? So, if it’s Alice and I together, there should be no problems.”

Wh-why — Why, did Alice tell her that? That Alice, doing whatever she wants. No, that’s not the problem here.

“If I’m against both, how are both together okay? Rather, if you’ve heard the story from Alice, then you should already know....”

“Do you like Alice?”

“Yes. I only hesitate because the girl I like in this life, is my sister from my previous life.”

I tell Claire clearly, so there can’t be any misunderstandings.

“Oh, well I don’t mind being your favorite mistress.”

“No, no, no that may not be uncommon in this world, but it’s definitely not normal in my world.”

Looking back at the relationship between Caroline and Milli, I’d be surprised if

that idea could ever work out well. But, Claire then dropped an even bigger bomb.

“It’s fine. After all, this was originally Alice’s idea.”

“Waaaaaaa~!? You have to be lying!”

“Of course I’m not lying. What did she say again, hmm.....Oh yeah. In this life, and in your previous world, a brother has a moral obligation to cling to his sisters.”

“What are you saying!!!!”

This is terrifying.

This would be quite a terrifying thing for Milli or Sophia to hear.

“Well, I don’t know what Alice said, but I don’t plan on creating a harem.”

“Why? Isn’t it a good thing?”

Of course I was born as a man, so there is a desire to have relations with multiple women.

And if I consider my true feelings, Sophia and Claire are as important to me as Alice is to me, if I don’t think about them in a romantic way.

However —

“If I go out with someone, I’m most likely prepared to marry them.”

For example, imagine you are dating someone.

And after spending many memorable years together, if someone more attractive than the person you’re dating appears and wants to go out with you.....Do you just break up with your partner and start dating the new person?

The answer will vary from person to person. Therefore, I’m not opposed to people deciding they want to be with someone else.

However, I still feel that you should be prepared to marry anyone you decide to date.

“Well.....Does that mean that Leon is not able to love everyone?”

“Why are you asking that? I just mean that I am prepared to choose one

person!"

"Because otouto-kun, isn't it better if we're all together?"

"....Well, I guess so."

"You're saying that you can only love one person. Do you mean it's just more convenient for you to love one girl?"

"Like I said, saying something like that is unfair!"

People that are only interested in money, they're the lowest! Someone that tries to be with multiple girls at the same time, they're the lowest! I don't really understand the meaning any longer.

Rather, I'm not sure of how to respond anymore.

"Anyway, it's useless to talk about bad things like this."

"That means you won't accept my feelings?"

"Gu~. What you're asking — "

"I don't plan on asking in an unfair way. I like otouto-kun, but if you only choose one, then there is no way I will be chosen."

"That's..."

Now that I think about it, when Claire first confessed to me I couldn't even give her an answer.....I can't put it off forever.

"I'll speak honestly. I think Claire is cute. If you weren't my older sister.....I'm not going to lie I've thought about it before, but we are blood related siblings, so it's impossible."

It's not the same as Alice being a reincarnation of my sister from my previous life.

I'm only considering going out with Alice because she's not my sister in this world. The two of them can't be compared.

Therefore—

"I'm sorry. I can't go out with Claire. I'm most attracted to Alice."

I bowed my head deeply towards Claire.

How long have I been doing this? I can't tell what kind of face she's making. But, after a while, Claire told me to raise my head.

After I looked up, I could see Claire showing a lonely smile.

"I was expecting this answer. So, you don't need to make such an apologetic face."

"Claire....I'm sorry."

"Like I said, don't worry about me. I won't be giving up on you yet, otouto-kun."

"Oh. I'm really sorry.....What? Wait a minute, did you just say you won't give up?"

"Eh, of course I won't. My aim is to be at your side forever. I'm also attracted to you. So, why would I give up? Because you said you love Alice?"

The moment I heard that, I let out an awkward smile.

However —

"Besides, otouto-kun is only eleven years old. It's fine if you go out with Alice now, there's still a lot of time left for me. Do you think I need a definite answer now?"

Claire's voice became more and more panicked as she went on, and I could see her fingers starting to tremble. After noticing that, I could no longer refuse her.

".....Claire"

"\_\_"

I only called out her name, but Claire's body jumped back in surprise. I let out a sigh, and gently stroked her head.

"....I understand Claire, I can't make a decision now.....Once I grow up, maybe I will be able to love more people, and if at that time your feelings haven't changed.....I will think about it once more."

"—Really!?"

"Y-yeah. But, I'll just think about it, okay? I can't guarantee anything."

"Yes, that's enough! Thank you, otouto-kun!"

Claire seemed to be overwhelmed by emotion and jumped into my arms. I feel like I'm slowly becoming more lenient to the whims of these girls.....At least that's what I think.

## Chapter 2-4: The End of Alice Cheat

And so, three months passed.

As part of class, the children had started farming. Because the planting season is already halfway done, we're focusing on planting wheat and soybeans.

However, if I were to free the children that were slaves, I'm afraid there would be various problems. So, for the time being they're still technically slaves.

That being said, it's merely for convenience. The standard of living here is probably much higher than any of the surrounding villages.

Give them a scholarship to attend school, and then give them a job after they graduate. They are paid for whatever contributions they make, and eventually will earn enough money to free themselves from slavery.

Everyone has been doing their best in their studies so far. Thanks to everyone learning how to read and write, we had reached our goal of teaching them agriculture.

But, not everything has been going so smoothly —

When winter was about to start, in front of the wheat fields the children had been using for practice. The children all looked confused.

It's because I had told them to go around and step on the wheat they had been growing.

"Um....Leon-sama, why are you stepping on the wheat we worked so hard to grow? Did we not grow it correctly?"

A girl asked me the question on all of the children's minds.

Her name is Tina.

Black hair, black eyes, and a Japanese-looking face, but she is not a reincarnator. She is twelve, one year older than me. She is also the oldest girl in my first-year class.

There were eighteen first-year students, consisting of the children that were slaves and Sophia. Sophia is still awkward, but somehow she has managed to

interact with everyone so far.

By the way, all of the slave children were girls. It seems any children that could not do farm work or hunting, which seems to be only girls, were sold into slavery.

Also, I taught some servants basic knowledge to prevent repeated cultivation damage and sent them to various villages in the territory.

Well, would they be called zero-year students?

“Leon-sama?”

“Ah, umm....there was nothing wrong with how you were growing them. Rather, they are growing quite nicely.”

“Then, why are you stepping on them?”

“There are a few reasons, but mainly it is because if you step on them regularly they will become stronger and yield more when it comes time to harvest.”

It's also common to move the crops from the frozen ground, but since the area we're in is rather warm, I doubt we need to worry about that.

“The more you step on it, the stronger it becomes?”

“Well, that's mostly correct. To be honest, I don't fully understand the reasoning either. Everyone, let's experiment. Everyone just needs to step on the wheat.”

“I'll step on it if you say so.. —Everyone, form a line and begin stepping on the crops~”

Tina gives instructions to everyone, and they begin stepping on the wheat.

At first, everyone was cautiously stepping on the wheat, but everyone gradually started having fun and some girls were even happily jumping around.

When I first bought them from the slave traders, they all looked depressed. But, they've all been gradually smiling more and more. I think it was good that this school was created.

“Fumi~, fumifumi~”

But, are we not stomping on them too much? No, we're still small children so this may be enough.

.....Well, I can just test different amounts of stomping and see how much the wheat grows in the future.

"Ha~! Hey, hey, hey~!"

Eighteen girls stomping on their hard work. If someone from the outside were to see this I bet they'd cry.

"Leon-sama, thank you very much."

"Eh!?"

Michelle had been learning on her own by watching us, when she suddenly thanked me. Thank you very much.....Impossible, is Michelle a lolicon that's into yuri?

No, of course not. She was very upset when she first heard about the children being sold into slavery. If I think about that...

"I'm sorry. Did I surprise you?"

"N-no, I'm fine....why are you thanking me?"

"For this sight."

"So it is for all of these girls!?"

This is bad. What should I do?

If I think about it properly, there are many lolicons and shotacons in this world. It seems like the difference in age between two people that get married is usually 10 or more years. Not to mention, rich people usually have very young slaves...

When consulting with Alice, it was decided that teachers should not be allowed to date any students.

"The children that were sold into slavery are laughing so happily. If it wasn't for Leon-sama, this would never have been possible."

"....Oh, so that's what you meant."

Was it just a misunderstanding....I'm sorry Michelle. I was seriously worried about you.

"I didn't think I'd be able to see something like this ever again."

"What do you mean? Aren't you exaggerating a bit?"

"I'm not exaggerating at all. Because if it wasn't for Leon-sama, I would have been burned to death that day."

I understood her meaning immediately. The time when the influenza outbreak occurred years ago.

"It's a very nostalgic story."

"For me it only feels like yesterday. Ever since that day, I have never forgotten my gratitude to Leon-sama and Claire-sama. And....."

Michelle finished speaking and kept watching the girls stepping on the wheat. It looked as if she was watching a member of her family. So, that's how it is.

I finally understood why Michelle cared so much for these girls.

"By any chance, is Tina....?"

"She is my youngest sister. To be honest, my hometown is between here and Milli-san's hometown. So, when I went to pick her up, I found out that Tina had been sold into slavery."

So that's why she seemed so desperate. She should have said something. What if Tina had been sold to someone before we were able to save her?

.....Maybe, she didn't want to bother me with personal matters? Or she thought I wouldn't care even if she did say anything.

"Michelle, if there's ever anything similar that happens in the future, please talk to me about it."

"That's....No, I won't bother you with my personal problems."

"Michelle is like a mother to Claire. So, to me you're like family. There's no reason for you to hold back."

".....Thank you very much, Leon-sama. I will try to repay your kindness for the rest of my life."

"That may be going a bit far, but....I see. If that's true, then please continue to care for Claire."

"That's also something I want to do, but was there something else?"

"When Claire was a child, she said there was something she wanted to accomplish on her own. Do you remember?"

A dream from her childhood. She never mentioned it again after her political marriage was decided....She's been trying her hardest recently. She certainly hasn't given up on her dream even now.

Recently, Claire's growth has been tremendous.

In just a few months, Claire learned many things from Alice and I. She grew enough to be able to supervise the work being done that was using more advanced technology from another world.

I think that her ability as a politician is already above Alice and I.

"Claire will soon become an indispensable person to this territory. So, until that time comes I want you to support her."

"I understand. I swear that I will stay by her side until the day she becomes independent. I will stay unmarried until that time."

....No, it's fine if you want to get married.

After that, time flowed into March.

Just one year has passed since we decided to start a school. At last — No, rather than saying at last, I should say already? Anyway, the school building has been completed.

I look up in awe at the three-storey building.

"That was quite last minute."

"The work wasn't really that late, was it? There are other buildings that need to be completed, but we just gave priority to this."

As I was talking to myself while looking at the school building, a voice could be heard from behind me.

"Alice —"

I turned around and was left stunned. Alice was wearing the uniform I had designed.

“....The uniform has been completed.”

“Yes, it’s just the sleeveless summer design for the time being.”

It was a gothic styled, red and black dress. The uniform had a pleated skirt with a checkerboard pattern and a corset-style blouse with a ribbon tied around the waist. The shoes are like knitted boots, and it looks quite fashionable. With this design, it should be easy to move around in outside.

In addition, the absolute territory seen in the area between the knee socks and skirt is dazzling. (TN: Absolute territory = [Zettai ryōiki](#) the fact that there is a detailed wikipedia article for this amazes me)

“How is it? Does it look good?”

Alice spins her body around causing the pleated skirt and her pink hair to gently fan out around her.

If I think about the fact that Alice is Saya, I’m rather embarrassed about the way I feel looking at her....No, Saya had a smaller chest.....But, that’s only natural considering she would have just been entering junior high.

“Leon? Are you thinking something rude?”

“Of course not, I was just thinking that it looks really good on you.”

“Thank you. But, isn’t it strange if a teacher wears a uniform?”

“....As for that”

I honestly hadn’t even thought about it until Alice just brought it up. Will it be confusing if the teachers and students wear the same uniforms?

“Well, I waited so long to wear one, if it’s just for today it should be fine.”

“Are you saying you’re not going to wear it anymore?”

“Yes. It’s also strange if I’m the only teacher wearing a uniform. Can’t the other teachers wear uniforms as well?”

“That’s....well.”

I picture Milli and Michelle wearing the cute uniforms.

Even though they are both over the age of 30, they are still cute.....Though, it is somewhat strange imagining my mother wearing a schoolgirl uniform.

It's also a waste that Alice waited so long to wear a uniform, but now is only able to wear it once. Besides, I think her dream of wearing a school uniform, also means she wanted to go to school....

That's right. Alice probably wanted to go to school one day — once I thought of this, I looked back at Alice.

The uniform worn by Alice is cute, but the normal clothes of this world are rather plain.

"Even though the student's uniforms are cute, the teachers would lack dignity if they just wore the normal clothes of this world....Or, maybe a better way of saying it is the clothes are plain."

"That's fine. As I said before, I'm making various types of clothes."

After saying this, Alice took out an off-shoulder white top with frills and a black tiered mini skirt.

Honestly, the design is probably at the same level as modern Japanese clothing. It's also made of silk, so it's probably of an even better quality.

"I think it's as good as the uniform. I think it's perfect."

"Isn't it~? I designed it to be cute and elegant. It was a lot of hard work making it using pattern paper."

"I see. If walking around town, it may not seem out of place....Where did the elements from our previous world go? Truly this is the Alice cheat. I feel like you're not showing enough prudence."

"Eh, what kind of shameful name is that? If you say something like that, Leon is more of a cheat. The Leon cheat."

"Excuse me? I act with discretion."

".....Hee~"

Alice scornfully looked at me with her blue eyes.

"Wh-what is it? I behave properly, right?"

"Can you say that again, after you look at these city streets you've helped develop?"

I look around at my surroundings after Alice said this.

The first thing I see is the three-storey school building. The outer wall is made of brick, but the foundation is made of reinforced concrete.

And then there's the windows. The technology used to make glass in this world is rather primitive, yet there were crystal clear glass panes fitted into these spaces.

Furthermore, there are bricks laid out creating roads in the city. Even in the capital city most of the roads are unpaved.

And in this world there is no water supply system for towns or villages. Yet, in this town, not only is there a water supply system that carries well water throughout the city, there is also a hot spring, and a sewer system that carries waste to the nearby river.

I finished looking at my surroundings and looked back at Alice.

".....D-did I overdo it?"

I never really meant to go this far.

However, using Alice to ask the spirits to make fire bricks was rather easy. The technology of this world makes it nearly impossible to make them by normal means, but with Alice, mass-producing these bricks becomes simple.

We also ordered a large amount of iron ore. It was relatively cheap because in this world it is difficult to process iron. So, we were able to mass-produce iron in the kiln, similar to the fire bricks. And so, we had iron tools and products.

Honestly, this city is ridiculously advanced.

"W-well, maybe I should show a little more prudence."

As expected, I will be able to get the results I want within a few years. I will soon have the power I need to protect Sophia from Patrick.

".....Did you just raise a flag meaning you definitely won't be more prudent?"

"It's just your imagination.....probably."

# Chapter 2-5: Invitation to the Student Dormitory |

## Part I

At the end of March.

The majority of the first-year students have graduated. In order to teach the people of the Grances territory, they were all sent out to various towns and villages with knights as escorts.

They will teach the people new ways of growing crops, and also means to counter repeated cultivation damage. Basic countermeasures are the main focus. In time, they will end the food shortages in the Grances territory.

On the other hand, the school was facing a new start.

On the first floor of the school dormitory. Alice and Claire stood on either side of me. Milli and Michelle are lined up behind me.

Across from us stood the next class that would be starting in the following month — 30 newly recruited children along with six people, including Sophia, that wished to stay without graduating. In total, there were 36 people lined up.

By the way, somehow, all 30 of the new students are girls.

I would also like some male students, but we are reliant on the children applying to our school, so for now, it can't be helped.

For the time being, most students are children that would have been sold into slavery because they could not help with farm work, in other words they are all girls. I would guess by next year we should also be getting some male students once the food shortage is no longer an issue.

Anyway, I look around at each of the new students.

All of the students from the previous year seem to be calm, but the 30 new students seem to be looking around nervously.

Incidentally, the most insecure element, Sophia, stood in the middle of this group of people. I guess she didn't get along with the other students at first, but some time during the last year she seems to have made a breakthrough with

them.

"Now then, there is a reason we've all gathered today. From now on, everyone will be living together as students, so some things need to be explained. It's nothing serious, so there is no reason for you to be scared."

I speak to the 30 people in front of me, but none of them seem to relax.

"Umm....Seriously, you can relax. Is there a reason you're all so tense?"

"No, umm.....Leon-sama, if you suddenly bring us to such a splendid house to face the nobility, it's only natural we would be nervous..."

Tina responds timidly.

Is that what they think? They're not nervous, rather they're dreading meeting with nobles. What should I do....

"U-umm, I have something I want to ask the nobility."

A girl suddenly spoke up. She was from the second-year students.

She's probably around twelve or thirteen years old. She's probably about Claire's age then. Her bluish hair is rather dry, but if she were to brush her hair, it would shine.

"What do you want to ask?"

"Ah, yes. Th-then, I'll ask it. Will we, umm.....From now on, will we become a nobleman's plaything!?"

"Gah!?"

Sorry, I let out a strange voice.

Rather, what!? Is that why they were so nervous!?

"Th-that's not the reason I've brought you girls here."

"Then what's the reason? Because Mother and Father —"

To summarize the girls' story, they were told they could live comfortably for the rest of their lives if they became mistresses to different nobleman. It may be painful for them and the service would be hard work.

.....Service?

"Cl-Claire?"

What were they told? I quickly turn my gaze to Claire.

"I-I told them properly. 'Children are being recruited to educate them. We will cover all of the living expenses of the children. The family also doesn't have to worry, because in the future we will also pay them wages,' that's what you said right?"

"Why was this misunderstood?"

"I-I don't know why."

We both curiously tilted our heads.

"U-umm, maybe....Was education taken to mean, education at night? Actually, well.....I also thought that way at the beginning."

Tina once again responds timidly.

....Maybe, during the first year of school, that depressing atmosphere was not only due to the children being sold into slavery, but also because they all thought this way.

Uwaa...I didn't want to know about that.

"Hmm? But, we were looking for both men and women."

"That, umm....well there are some people like that."

"I....I see."

There certainly is a lot of nobility, so it's possible....Wait, does that mean most people think I am interested in small boys and girls!? Does that make me Earl Hentai!?.....Wait?

Perhaps, this is the reason we only have female students?

.....My head hurts, I just need to deny this immediately.

"Umm, you from before, what's your name?"

"M-my name is Lyanna."

"Well then, Lyanna, I don't know what you were told by your parents, but you don't have to worry. There is no service that will be asked of you at night."

Everyone finally relaxes after hearing my words.

This reaction...It seems all of the new students were worried about this. I need to make sure there are no misunderstandings when we next start recruiting.

"Then, umm.....what are we here to do?"

"You will all learn about different agricultural techniques and practices....Don't worry, you will be taught everything you need to know in class. And if you have any concerns, you can talk with Tina. She is already in her second year here."

I say this and indicate to the class who Tina is.

"I-I understand, I will do as the nobleman says."

"Ah, please stop calling me a nobleman."

"I-is there something wrong with it?"

"That's not it. Here there is no nobility or commoners. We are all equal."

By the way, Tina and the other first-year students have now been freed from slavery.

When the first-year students graduated, it seemed inconvenient to leave them as slaves once they were sent out to the towns and villages. So, as a form of advanced payment, they were set free.

So, the remaining five child slaves were also set free.

I was also worried that once they were set free, their attitudes would change, but it seems I had nothing to worry about. Even Tina seems to be eager to learn more.

"That's why you can just call me Leon."

"Leon-sama?"

"You don't need any honorifics....Well, it's good enough -- As long as everyone feels comfortable with one another."

The second part of that sentence is directed towards the second-year students. It seems not everyone would be immediately comfortable referring to

me so casually. At least all of the new students seemed to be relaxed now.

Alright, let's finish our business here.

"This isn't where the students usually lived. Until the day before yesterday everyone had been living at the old Grances mansion."

"Y-yes, it was an amazing place."

"Was it a comfortable place to live?"

"Yes, but this new mansion may overshadow it....But, living there was like being in a dream."

I smile unconsciously after hearing her words.

"When living in the old mansion, it would take the students one hour by carriage to get here. That's why I'm planning on having everyone live here...."

"As long as we are safe from the rain and other elements anyplace would be fine."

"It's fine, because this is where everyone will live in the future."

At the moment, everyone froze.

".....Eh? This is Leon-sama's residence.....isn't it?"

"No, this is the student dormitory, where all of you will live."

"Eh, umm....that's a joke, right?"

"Of course not. There is a dining hall and hot spring on the first floor, please use them as you please."

"Di-dining hall? Hot spring? Umm, I've heard it many times, but....you're just joking, right?"

"I'm not lying at all."

"Re-really? Is it really okay for us to live here?"

"It's fine. From this day onward, this is your home."

I figured everyone would be overjoyed, but none of them are showing any reaction. Hmm? What's the matter with everyone? I turned my eyes to see Lyanna standing there with her mouth agape.

And then there was silence.

“““EEEEEEHHHHHHHHH!?”””

Everyone let out a surprised yell at once — I see. Maybe this was a little too much for them.

“.....Leon, I will tell you once again because it seems you may have forgotten, but most commoners of this world live in wood houses that barely keep out the wind. The most luxurious houses will be made of stone. Buildings made of reinforced concrete don’t even exist in the kingdom’s capital city.”

Alice quietly tells me this.

“I-I know that, but this student dormitory was already complete before we talked about being more prudent. So, it can’t be helped now.”

“.....After all, you did raise a flag.”

“It’s nothing like that.”

I definitely didn’t raise any kind of flag.

# Chapter 2-6: Invitation to the Student Dormitory |

## Part II

It took a while for everyone to calm down after misunderstanding that the student dormitory was my residence. I waited until everyone had gotten over the shock and they finally regained their composure.

“Now then everyone, we will now give you your uniforms, please form a queue and accept them one at a time.”

I say this to everyone and direct them towards Alice.

By the way, the uniforms we’re giving them are the blouse and skirt for summer clothing, two sets of winter clothing, a robe, knee socks, and a pair of shoes.

“Now, everyone get lined up and we will distribute the uniforms according to your height. If there are any issues with them come and tell me later.”

Alice began handing each student a uniform. In that way, each student had soon received their uniform, but they were all surprised at the clothing they had received.

“Umm....Leon-sama? What are these clothes? They’re amazing, they feel so soft.”

Lyanna looks at me uneasily. I know the quality is amazing....but, why is she so anxious?

“They are your school uniforms.....It’s kind of like proof that you are students at this school.”

“Well, umm.....are we supposed to pay for them?”

“Hm? Oh, sorry. We’re giving them to you so don’t worry.”

“““EH!?”””

Once again everyone is shocked beyond belief.

“U-u-umm, Le-Le-Leon-sama? This school uniform, it must be ridiculously

expensive.”

“Ah~ I wonder.”

I turn to look at Alice, the creator of the uniforms.

“Eh, the cost of the uniforms? Well.....The King’s clothing would probably be cheaper.”

“I c-c-an’t take something so amazing!”

Lyanna starts to panic and tries to return the uniform.

“Wait a minute, Alice!? Are the materials that rare? If we were to mass-produce it, wouldn’t they be too expensive!?”

“Eh? Well, yes.....But, I’m planning on selling regular clothing to civilians. So, it should even out.”

“Is that so? Then, Lyanna and everyone else can feel comfortable in receiving these clothes.”

“I-is it really okay?”

“It’s fine, there’s no problem. The cost isn’t that high.”

“Based on the initial costs, I’d guess one villager could live for several years without working.”

“After all, I really can’t receive something like ttthhhhaaattttt!”

“Wha—! Why did you say that, Alice!?”

All of the materials used to create the uniforms, are produced in Muhle. Therefore, the cost to produce the uniforms should not be that high.

Yet, the cost is enough for a villager to live off of for several years? The cost of using looms and other facilities is really that high?

I scowl at Alice lightly, but Alice was just standing there giggling as expected. And Alice was the one telling me to be more prudent.

“Sorry, umm....Lyanna-chan?”

“Y-yes, Alice-sama?”

“You don’t need to use honorifics. I’m not a noble.”

Rather, she is a high elf, but if I said that everyone would probably faint. I definitely should not say anything like that so carelessly.

“Umm, then, Alice-san. What you said earlier was a joke?”

“Yes, definitely. I was just messing around a bit.”

“Then....umm, it really doesn’t cost that much?”

“Oh, it definitely does.”

“Awawawa”

Stop bullying her! Alice is definitely going too far.....Hmm? That Alice, she’s showing a gentle smile, but no matter how you look at it, she’s definitely not just playing around.

Is there some reason for her teasing? Either way, the teasing is a bit much.

We-well, I’ll let her continue to see if there’s a reason for it.

“Hey, Lyanna-chan? All of the materials used to make the uniform are created here. That’s why, right now the uniforms are expensive, but in a few years, other aristocrats will be able to afford them. In less than a decade, even your parents will be able to afford them.”

“We are poor. No matter how much cheaper these clothes get, we will never be able to afford them.”

“It may be impossible right now, but someday it may be possible.....No, it will definitely be possible.”

“It will be possible?”

“Definitely. Villagers will not have to worry about starving or be worried about their children’s future. Here we will make a peaceful world, where all of the people important to us can live happily. That is the work we will all do here.”

“A world where everyone can live happily....”

Lyanna repeated Alice’s words. These words slowly spread to the other children and they started talking among themselves. It would be nice if that were possible, but most of the children seem to think it is impossible.

Alice was listening to the noise coming from the children, before she raised her hands. At that moment, the children that noticed all fell silent — and this caused the rest of the children to become quiet.

For several seconds, the room was in complete silence.

“I know you may think something like that is impossible. I understand your feelings in this, but please remember what you saw when you came here. This city is like nothing you’ve ever seen before, right?”

“Th-that’s true, this city is amazing.”

“There are many buildings that I’ve never seen before.”

“There was an onee-chan that told me I can wash my body with hot water whenever I wish in this town.”

“If they can make something like this, maybe —”

One after another, they each voiced their opinions. But, this noise did not last long. It was because everyone was looking at Alice, after one of the girls had said, “maybe.”

“It’s impossible for me alone. Even with everything Leon has done we can’t achieve that dream by ourselves. If everyone here helps, we can surely realize that dream. So, please, lend us your strength and it will definitely become possible.”

After hearing Alice’s words, there was a faint sign of hope in each of the children’s eyes. Once everyone’s intentions had become the same, Alice continued calmly.

“This uniform is a sign of that dream. Let’s do our best together, so that everyone that is important to us can laugh and live happily together.”

“““YES!“““

It’s Alice’s one-man show.

Somehow, I feel like Alice should be the main character instead of me.

## Chapter 2-7: A Shadow Creeps In On A Calm Day

Alice's inspiring words — I guess her speech was pretty effective. Everyone seemed really motivated and the school was off to a good start.

At the same time, the development of various technologies is advancing at an incredible speed.

Let me explain a few of them.

First of all is the standard farming equipment:

There are several agricultural tools such as iron hoes, threshing machines, winnowing fans (a tool used to separate grain from chaff), and watermills.

Before now, this world only had bronze tools. So, the world has changed quickly.

Next, is about beauty:

First off, is creating a hair conditioner made of honey, lemon juice, and wheat flour. Since this is a luxury item that uses food, for now, it is only available to the people here. But, eventually, they will be sold to the rest of the country.

Next, is something that uses caustic soda — so, it needs to be handled carefully. The caustic soda is used in soap that is made by craftsman using fat, coconut oil, and water. Again, these are luxury items that use food to create them. So, they are only available here for the time being.

Furthermore, we combined the glycerine created when making the soap with water to make a silky face lotion. With this, the condition of everyone's face and hair improved.

By the way, the different types of crops we have planted are too many to name.

We have started beekeeping to mass-produce honey and have started cultivating natural yeast. In addition, charcoal, pottery, washi, and many other things are being produced. This city is probably a century ahead of the rest of this civilization.

.....Prudence? What is that, is it delicious?

In this way, one month after school had started, various productions and classes were proceeding smoothly.

Soon, a town where everyone can live happily will soon be completed. At this rate, I will be able to protect Sophia and everyone important to me.

On a certain holiday — it was decided that there would be a break from school once a week — it was the afternoon of one of these days. I held a tea party in the mansion.

Sophia said she would actually like to invite friends from school!

Well, it's good that she seems to be recovering from her yandere tendencies. When we were still at the Sfir home, I thought she would surely fall into the darkness.

By the way, the only people here currently are Sophia, her two friends, and me. Alice is preparing sweets so she'll be here soon, but Claire is currently busy with paperwork.

I know her dream is to be able to succeed on her own....but I feel like I'm pushing my work onto her.

I'll make sure to bring some sweets to her later.

"Thank you for inviting me today."

"Th-th-thank you very much for inviting me today."

Sophia's friends — Tina and Lyanna politely curtsied.

As part of their classes, they are learning proper etiquette. Lyanna is still new so she's rather awkward, but Tina seems to be doing it effortlessly.

"Both of you can relax. You're here today as Sophia's friends. Right, Sophia?"

"That's right. Thank you both for coming today."

Sophia says this and smiles a little unnaturally. I wonder if she's feeling anxious because she can't read their minds.....or maybe it's because of their personalities.

"Then, maybe it would be better if it was just you three?"

A tea party with her friends. Apart from Sophia, I thought they would be nervous if I were to stay, but Sophia quickly grabbed my arm.

"You can't. Sophia wants to have tea with Leon onii-chan."

"But....."

I turned my gaze to Lyanna and Tina.

"It's okay with us if you stay. Rather, we would like to talk with Leon-sama.....Hey, Lyanna you think so too right?"

"Eh, of course you can stay!.....Ah, umm, it's fine with me if you stay."

....She accidentally bit her tongue. Lyanna's face turned crimson.

"O-okay, then I guess I should take a seat?"

"Auuuu~, I'm fine, don't mind me."

Ah....is it better to ignore her mess up? I was going to ask about it, but it seems she has ended that conversation before it began. Lyanna shyly hid her face.

Sophia and Tina are laughing. These two show no mercy.

"Sorry for the wait, everyone. I brought tea and sweets."

After knocking, Alice entered the room.

Alice enters with several servants carrying tea for four and various types of sweets.....Wow, how many sweets did she make!?

Many different cakes, ice cream, pudding and cream puffs.

There were doughnuts and pancakes as well. Furthermore....there was also chocolate. I never developed these things.

Alice is definitely not being prudent here — Eh, did she do this because Sophia brought her friends? If that's the case, it can't be helped.

"This may have become more of a tasting party rather than a tea party. As you can see, there are many different sweets. So, please have as many as you want."

""YES!""

Like this, the tea party, now tasting party, began.

“And then, Leon onii-chan hugged me as I cried!”

“KYAAAA~”

I don’t mind girl talk, but could they at least hold back on talking about me when I’m right next to them? I’m really embarrassed,

As I pretend not to hear Sophia’s words, I turned my eyes to Tina and Lyanna.

When I first met them, their hair was untidy and they had freckles covering their faces. I honestly thought that the new cosmetic items would go to waste on them, but now their skin is smooth and their hair is shiny. This is all thanks to the shampoo, conditioner, and lotion made by Alice.

Because their clothes are also of such high quality, they could easily pass as princesses.

When we first started out, everyone was very tanned, but for some reason everyone’s skin has become much fairer. At first I thought it was because they would always wear robes when outside, but...

It is common for both the male and female children of farmers in this world to bathe together. So, it seems they aren’t concerned about others seeing their underwear.

That’s why, even when they are doing outside work, they rarely wear robes. And yet, their skin is still becoming lighter.

“Umm, is there something on my face?”

Tina noticed my stare, and tilted her head.

“No, I was just wondering why everyone’s skin has become light recently.”

“Ah, that’s something I was also curious about.”

“That’s... because of the school uniforms.”

Alice suddenly says this.

“Did you use magic on the uniforms? Is that why the exposed skin isn’t getting tanned?”

"Yes, I used inscription magic to enchant them. One of the effects is that it protects from some UV rays."

"Wait a minute, you enchanted it? You can use inscription magic?"

"I wanted the uniforms to protect against UV rays, so I learned it. I don't regret it!"

".....I thought we were going to be more prudent."

"UV rays are the natural enemies of your skin, right? I thought it was best to take action first. After all, Leon likes fair-skinned girls."

"Wha-!"

Why do you know this sister from my previous life!?

"I don't completely understand.....but thanks to this uniform Sophia doesn't tan?"

Sophia asks Alice this.

"Yes. Well, it will also adjust the temperature in cold and hot weather."

"Ah, so that's why these clothes are so comfortable."

.....Now that I think about it, it has been comfortable no matter what the weather is.

I was thinking we were just having good weather at first, but....it wasn't good weather. Rather, the clothes we wear are air-conditioned.

I don't think Alice knows the meaning of the word prudence.

"Alice, are there any other ridiculous effects on the uniform?"

"Hmm~? There are three effects in total."

"So, there's one more effect? What else has the Alice cheat done?"

"I said stop calling me a cheat. There's just one more permanent effect that creates lasers."

"....Eh, what was that? No way, do you plan on burning enemies with lasers?"

That will just mow down people! Well, I may actually like to try it.

"No, that's not it...You see, the skirt on the uniform is very short, but the girls here are not very conscious of their skirts."

"I see....wait, no way..."

"Yep, when what's under their skirt is visible, a beam of light will prevent anyone from seeing it. Because it's not a light censoring adult situations, this beam of light won't even disappear on blu-ray."

"That's what you meant by lasers!"

During late-night anime, there was a mysterious light that covered certain things.

It's true that Saya's body was weak so she often stayed home. I knew she liked anime and light novels, but.....why does she know about those?

"Wait a minute. Does that mean....that effect is also on me?"

"Ah, yes. For Leon's clothing, there is an effect that completely covers the laser covered areas in darkness. Why should only one person be allowed to enjoy themselves?"

"No, please don't say something like that with such a serious face..."

In the first place I'm not a lolicon.

I'm being completely serious. I'm more interested in girls in their late-teens than girls around my age in this world.

Thinking about that, when Sophia and Claire grow up....I have doubts I'd be able to resist them.

Anyway I need to stop rambling. It was when I thought this we could hear people talking outside.

From outside in the hallway we could hear a maid saying, "I'm sorry for the trouble. I will call the Lord at once, so please wait in the room!"

Shortly afterwards, the door burst open. Standing there was a blonde man that was maybe fifteen or sixteen years old.....Who is he?

## Chapter 2-8: After the Discussion

“Sophia, I’ve come for you!”

The man that suddenly entered the room goes straight towards Sophia the moment he sees her. Sophia hid as soon as he entered.

I got up to shield Sophia behind my back.

“Who are you?”

“Ha? Who are you?”

“I am Leon Grances.”

“....I see. You’re the one that became the head of the Grances family. I’m Patrick, Patrick Rodwell.”

.....Oh, so this is the lolicon that’s obsessed with Sophia. He has a nice face and appearance. He also seems to be very arrogant.

Rodwell is a viscount family, so they should be of a lower rank than an earl.

Is he becoming arrogant because he believes the Grances family is declining and the head of the family is a child? Or is it because the Rodwell family is now a branch family of the Gramp family?

The former is just a misunderstanding; the latter.....could be troublesome.

Although we are revolutionizing the technology of this world, the Grances family still has little power. It would be bad if we were to enter into a conflict with the Marquis of Gramp at this time.

.....It can’t be helped. I’ll just have to be as polite as possible.

“Well, Patrick-san, what business did you have with me today?”

“I have no business with you. I just came to get Sophia.”

Patrick tried to grab Sophia’s arm as she hid behind me.

Ah, I can’t let him do that.

“...What is the meaning of this?”

“Sophia, has become my adopted sister.”

“Adopted sister? I know you’ve been gathering village girls for suspicious reasons, but you also plan on using Sophia in that way!?”

Aaaaaaaahhhh, this guy is also misunderstanding that!?

“Well, umm, I’d like to correct you on that because you are definitely misunderstanding. I gathered children here to teach them various things about agriculture and other subjects. It’s definitely not for any suspicious reasons.”

“Don’t try to lie. You’ve only gathered girls!”

“No, that’s just by coincidence.”

“—There’s no way that is just a coincidence!”

I have to admit, it does seem suspicious....

“Umm, what Leon-sama said is true.”

Tina quietly raised her voice.

“Who are you people? Are you from a different noble family?”

“I-I’m just a commoner.”

“Commoner!? As if the words of a commoner matter to me!”

“—Huu”

Patrick quickly closed the distance between him and Tina. Before he got to her I quickly jumped in between them.

“Hey! I won’t allow you to threaten my guests. Tina and Lyanna, everything’s fine, just remain calm.”

I exchanged looks with Alice as I tried to defend the two girls. I’m grateful for their feelings, but it’s dangerous for them to speak up against Patrick.

“It seems you really did gather these girls for suspicious reasons.”

“What are you talking about? I told you that you were just misunderstanding.”

“This girl is the daughter of a commoner, right? So, you’re saying you are teaching agriculture to this commoner girl, right?”

"That's right, and?"

"Ha! Why aren't they wearing rags!? Why would they need to be dressed so beautifully if they were just farming!? Whatever excuses you come up with, the true reason is that you are training them to be your mistresses!"

"No, these clothes are just their uniforms. It's something like clothing to farm in."

"In what world would you wear a dress while farming!?"

I can't disagree with that! Even if we were in another world, you'd never wear a dress to farm — I'm sorry. Who was it that made the uniform a miniskirt.....Ah, that was me.

*Ahem*

Anyway, I don't like the way this guy is talking. He's looking down on these girls just because they are commoners. I don't like his personality, but I can understand why he's angry.

If I were in his position, believing some guy was doing strange things to Sophia, I'd probably feel the same way.

So — I looked Patrick straight in his eyes.

"I'm very sorry for causing this misunderstanding, but on the honor of the Grances name, I haven't done anything wrong."

"Ha, you think I'd believe such nonsense! If that is true, then give me Sophia right now!"

"Hah? Your way of thinking is rather strange."

"So, that's how it is, but that doesn't matter. Even if you have done strange things to Sophia, I will bring her home with me."

Ah....this guy. He was just looking for a reason to bring Sophia back with him.

"And if I refuse?"

"I will tell the Marquis of Gramp of what you've done. Then, you will receive a proper punishment."

"....I understand. Then, let's discuss how Sophia will be delivered to you."

“““Leon-sama!?”””

“Leon onii-chan?”

Tina and Lyanna let out a shocked voice and Sophia anxiously grabbed onto my arm. I need to reassure Sophia.

“— But, the only way I will go along with this, is if the person involved agrees. I will never let someone that Sophia dislikes take her.”

“Good. If that’s the case, we can just ask Sophia. Of course Sophia will want to come with me!”

Where does that confidence come from....I turned to Sophia to ask her opinion.

“What would you like to do Sophia? Do you want to go with him?”

“....Is it troublesome if Sophia stays here?”

“Not to me. You can do whatever you like.”

“If so, then Sophia...Sophia wants to stay with Leon onii-chan. I will absolutely not go with him!”

“....I understand. I’m sorry for making you feel so uneasy.”

I gently stroked Sophia’s head and then looked back at Patrick. His eyes were wide open in shock.

What I did was a little terrible, but with this Patrick should be able to understand.

“—You! You must have brainwashed Sophia!”

“Why would you think that!? No matter how you look at it, she’s trying to avoid you!”

“Do you take me for a fool!? You must have done something to her! Otherwise, there is no way Sophia would avoid me!”

Uwaa, this guy just really doesn’t get it. He reminds me of Blake, and I feel a little homesick....I’m not exactly sure, but Patrick really has a similar personality to Blake.

“Anyway, Sophia does not like you, so you can return home.”

“Ha, you must be joking! Like I could leave her with you people!”

“Joke? Did you not hear what Sophia said herself? Like I said, go home for today.”

“Y-you, are you actually trying to give me orders!? Do you not understand what I can make happen!?”

“I don’t know. What are you going to do?”

“I told you I will report you to the Marquis of Gramp!”

“Hmm. So you’re going to report that you forced your way into my house without permission. Then, you tried to forcibly take Sophia, even after she said she did not want to go with you?”

“Wh–. Y-you.....”

It would be difficult to prove that Patrick is lying. It would be just his word against mine. So, if Patrick were to report that I was doing suspicious things to the girls here, it would be very troublesome.

However, it is clear that Sophia doesn’t want to go with him. If Patrick were to lie, we could quickly prove that Sophia didn’t want to go with Patrick.

“So, what will you do? If you plan on telling the Marquis, then I’m sure you’d be fine with him hearing Sophia’s opinion as well?”

“....Kuu, fine. I will let Sophia stay with you, for now. Instead, I will enroll in this school of yours!”

Just as I thought I’d won, I was hit with an unexpected counter.

# **Chapter 3-1: A Promise — However, I'm Not Sure I Can Keep It**

“You want to go to school.....What are you saying? Your goal is to take Sophia with you, right?”

Patrick’s words confuse me.

“I told you I would give up on bringing Sophia with me.”

“Then, why do you wish to go to school?”

“Why? Because you swore on the honor of the Grances family name that you aren’t doing anything suspicious.”

“That’s true, but...”

“If so, there’s nothing you need to be worried about.”

So that’s what it is. He thinks he will be able to prove I’m doing suspicious things here. And then, he will be able to take Sophia with him.

He’s saying something so ridiculous with such a triumphant face. Doesn’t he feel at all ashamed? Yet he’s staring at me with a face like that?

Is it because he knows that I really can’t say no to him joining the school?

“So, what are you going to do? Will you let me join the school? Or will you just quietly give me Sophia? For me, it would be easier if you were to choose the latter.”

Th-this is annoying. Really, the annoying part is that no matter what I choose the results will be equally troublesome.

Honestly, I don’t mind the idea of accepting a noble into the school. After all, the goal is to continue growing the school. So, I had planned on accepting children from all over the country.

But this guy is the epitome of an arrogant noble. Patrick will almost certainly cause problems if he joins the school.

No matter how I look at it, this is a troublesome situation.

— However.

If I don't allow him to join, he will tell the Marquis lies of what I'm actually doing here. On top of that, Patrick could use the fact that I refused to allow him to enroll here as evidence that I am actually doing suspicious things here.

I honestly wouldn't care if I were to get a bad reputation throughout the country — or at least I'd like to say that. But, it would be bad if the Marquis was to get a bad opinion of me before we even met.

After all, I was the main reason for breaking off his engagement to Claire. Even if the reason for this was that the head of the Grances family had died, I'm still sure his opinion of me is already not great.

If he were to blame that on me, using Patrick's words as a pretext, he could decide to punish me or begin exerting a lot of pressure on the Grances family to do as he wishes.

He may ask us to pay him some compensation. Or even worse, the only way he may forgive me is if I give him Claire and Sophia — if that were to happen, I'd have no choice but to face him head on.

I'm not going to say it would be impossible for us to win, but I'd rather it not come down to a fight. Therefore, I want to make sure the Marquis of Gramp is involved as little as possible.

In other words, it doesn't matter if I accept Patrick here or send him away. Either choice will be troublesome.

To potentially become the enemy of the Marquis of Gramp or accept Patrick as a student. Asking which is better....I'd have to say the latter.

...Probably.

If I can get Patrick to give up on Sophia, I can buy myself some time to garner enough power to actually oppose the Marquis.

For the time being, I feel like this is the best option.

"There is one condition for you to enroll here. At this school, everyone is equal. If you cause any problems, you will leave the school. Do you agree to this?"

"I can agree to that. However, I will also require two people besides me to enroll as well."

"...Two people?"

"My steward and personal knight."

"That's fine. Then, the place where you'll be staying..."

"—Leon, there's no way a nobleman will stay in the same dormitory as commoners."

Unexpectedly, Alice, who had remained silent this entire time, spoke up.

Did she say, nobleman.....Alice would never speak like that. There must be a reason she's talking like that.

"Alice, what do you think we should do?"

"How about the old Grances mansion?"

"—ha"

Th-that was dangerous. I almost couldn't stop myself from laughing.

The old Grances mansion.

Unlike the student dormitories, there is no bath or water supply. However, there are still some luxurious amenities. And, even if it doesn't reach the level of the student dormitories, the old mansion is fully furnished.

In terms of houses from this world, the old mansion is probably one of the nicest places to live — but, compared to the new houses I've built, it is easily the lowest quality residence available.

It definitely isn't a suitable place for the nobility to live. Alice is honestly terrifying. I was thinking it would be best to behave myself, but this guy has really made me angry.

"Hmm, the mansion of the Earl. Is it worthy of me?"

"It's good....?"

"What? Is the mansion not in use? Are you trying to say I can't use it?"

"It's nothing like that, but....it will take an hour by carriage to get to the school

from there."

By the way, it is only a few minutes on foot from here to the dormitory.

"Hmm, well compared to living in a dormitory with commoners, that's rather trivial. If there are no other problems, let me use that mansion!"

This is a dream come true for me. This will reduce the chances of him causing problems with the other students....Or at least I hope that's the case.

"Then, you can use the old mansion. As for enrolling....it will maybe take a week? In that time we'll also prepare the mansion for you."

"Well, that's at least a good start. I'll leave for now and prepare for admission."

Patrick said this and turned on his heel and left the room. The maid that Patrick had pushed passed to enter the room, panicked and followed after him.

We all watched him leave and then let out a sigh of relief.

"I'm sorry, I couldn't deny him admittance."

I bow toward everyone else.

"....As for that, I feel like it couldn't be helped. He seems like the type of person that believes what he wants to believe."

Alice said this after my apology. Sophia, Tina, and Lyanna all nodded as if to show they felt the same way.

"Thank you. I feel relieved hearing you say that."

As I say thanks to everyone, I am also thinking about the future.

I had no choice but to allow Patrick to join the school, but I'm not going to take it easy on him. I intend to make him pay for everything he's done.

As I was thinking this, Sophia held on tightly to me.

"Sophia? You don't need to worry. You know I'll protect you, right?"

"Yes, I believe in you. That's why, umm.....I'm sorry, Leon onii-chan. It's all Sophia's fault."

"Hm? Why are you apologizing?"

“Because the only reason that man came here, was to take Sophia.”

“Ah, like I said earlier, you don’t have to worry about that. The reason I made you my sister was to protect you.”

“But....because of Sophia, Leon onii-chan’s school will fall into disarray...”

“No, no, you really think it will be that bad!?!?”

Patrick by himself could cause that much disorder in the classroom — I wouldn’t doubt it. As I was worried about this, Sophia kept staring at my face.

“I’m sorry, Leon onii-chan. That’s why I’ll make sure he never has a chance to cause problems for the school.”

“Wha-!? It’s alright, everything is fine! Everything is really okay!”

So please don’t suddenly lift up the edge of your skirt and pull the daggers out! I shouted this in my mind rather than saying it out loud.

“....Is it really okay?”

“It’s fine, it really is okay. If there are any problems, I can take care of them myself. You don’t need to worry, Sophia.”

Ah~, I was surprised. I forgot she has daggers strapped to her thighs. She’s become so much happier recently so I had started to feel relieved. But, I guess it could be dangerous if I’m not careful with her.

For now, I gently stroke Sophia’s head to comfort her.

“Uwawa~, Leon onii-chan, my hair will get messed up.”

Sophia surprisingly pulled away from me. I laughed a little and turned my gaze to Alice.

“Alice, sorry, but will you take over hosting the tea party?”

“That’s fine, but what are you going to do, Leon?”

“I have some future plans I need to discuss with Claire. Everyone, I need to leave for a bit, but please continue to enjoy the tea party.”

I was now sitting in Claire’s office. After hearing about what happened with Patrick, she let out a long, exhausted sigh.

"Even though I'm so busy, you came to tell me a joke like Patrick is joining the school?"

"No, umm.....Rather, it's true?"

As Claire stared at me with her scornful eyes, I casually looked off into the distance. But, I can still feel her piercing stare. A single drop of sweat ran down my cheek.

"Is...Is it that bad?"

I can no longer stand the feeling of her eyes on me and turn to look at her.

"There will almost certainly be problems. It may be impossible for Otouto-kun to imagine, but in this world, it is impossible for the nobility to treat commoners as equals."

"That's....I understand that, but it should be okay. He'll be kicked out if he uses his position to cause any problems."

"I hope that's true. First of all, did you think about Sophia? Will it be okay for her and Patrick to study together?"

".....Well, to be honest, I'm feeling pretty anxious about that."

I doubt he'd try to kidnap Sophia or anything that extreme, but I can't deny the possibility that he will keep trying to make advances on her.

Sophia would become pitiable, and if the situation got worse, Patrick would become pitiful.

.....I'm not trying to make a pun, but I'm more concerned with what Patrick would do.

"I'll have Alice watch over Sophia for a while. Alice will be more than capable of using force to protect Sophia if necessary."

"Alice? Well, her spirit magic is exceptional."

"Yep, and recently she's been improving her skills even more."

She's been using spirit magic every day to build the city of Muhle. This and the fact that she has been teaching me spirit magic every day using sensory magic is the reason I think her skills have improved so much.

I'm confident that I've improved some, but Alice is on a completely different level. I wonder what will happen if she continues to improve at this rate. It's kind of a disturbing thought.

"...Well, it should be okay, probably. After hearing Otouto-kun's story, it would have been hard for you to refuse him."

"Is that because the Rodwell's are a branch family of the Marquis of Gramp?"

"That's right. The Marquis of Gramp holds a lot of power throughout the country. He's someone you should absolutely not turn into an enemy. Even so, he probably already has a poor opinion of us after we broke off the engagement."

"That's true...."

With just three months before the marriage was meant to be official, we suddenly decided to break the engagement.

"This is a real pain."

"It really is. That's why you definitely can't confront Patrick head-to-head."

"I understand."

"Do you truly understand? You 100%, absolutely can not do that. You must absolutely not confront him in any way. Do you understand?"

.....Hmm? Why do I feel like it's inevitable that this will happen?

"Otouto-kun!?"

Yes. I'm sorry.

## Chapter 3-2: Farce

Two weeks had passed since then and Patrick had been going to school for one week.

I was soaking my feet in the footbath of the mansion. I let out a sigh after hearing the report from Claire.

"There have been three times Patrick was seen yelling at a girl. Two of whom were made to cry. Him flaunting his social status has become a problem...."

"Unfortunately, it seems he doesn't seem to care about that."

"Haa, he even made some girls cry."

"He needs to be taught how to treat a commoner kindly."

"Ah....I see. 'As a commoner, it's only natural for you to be beneath a nobleman!' He's educating them by kindly yelling at them."

She was trying to lighten the mood with a poor joke, but.....this is serious.

"Also, the two men that Patrick brought with him are causing problems as well."

".....What kind of people are they?"

"His steward and knight. They're both around the same age as Patrick. As for their personalities, they feel like if you defy them, it is the same as opposing Patrick. Do you get what I mean?"

"....Doesn't that mean he should be kicked out of the school?"

"The way we treat commoners is unusual in this world. Patrick is treating them poorly, but in comparison to the way other nobles treat commoners, he isn't nearly as bad. If we were to kick him out now, I'm sure it would be troublesome later."

"Guuu...."

It failed. I should have made it clear that he couldn't use his status in any way. I should've had him sign an agreement stating that he was equal to any

commoner in the school.

The next time we enroll any other nobility, they will definitely sign something similar.

"Haa~, I'd love to stay in the footbath all day."

I gently sway my feet in the footbath. I don't know what kind of minerals are in this hot spring, but I feel like my entire body is being healed. I can feel the heat coming up through my feet and warming my entire body.

It's a great feeling to be relaxing in this room with my feet in the footbath.

"Wait, otouto-kun? Are you trying to escape from reality?"

"Don't say something like that. Sometimes, it's just nice to take some time to relax in the hot springs~"

"Why does your voice sound like a spoiled child when you say that?"

"Mu~u, Claire isn't kind at all."

"I understand wanting to take a break, but right now the most important thing is Sophia and the other students. So, you shouldn't be complaining about anything right now."

....She's right.

I'm sure Claire has a lot to deal with on her own as the substitute head of the family. She's become incredibly reliable before I even noticed. I can't let her down here.

I hit my cheek and turn to Claire.

"I'm sorry, Claire. I came to my senses thanks to you."

"No, you're fine, otouto-kun. So, are you thinking of a solution?"

"Well....Even if there are eyewitness reports, there have been no complaints, right?"

"Yes, the report came from a teacher that was completely uninvolved in the incident. You're not suggesting we do nothing, just because nobody involved has complained are you?"

"It's the opposite."

The teachers are Milli and Michelle. Even though they have both seen this happen, none of the students have complained.

"Because Patrick is a nobleman, all of the students just endure it. Things can't be allowed to go on like this."

"Ah, maybe there's other things happening that none of the teachers have witnessed....Maybe we can talk to each student and see what they have to say?"

"I think that's a good idea. There doesn't seem like there's anything else we can do right now."

I'll leave the care of the students to Milli and Michelle.

After that, I need to find a way to prevent Patrick from causing more problems. If I could completely change the way he thinks, that would be best, but that won't happen unless he's reborn as a completely different person.

The only choice is for someone with the same status as him to force him to listen.....He won't even listen to a single word of someone that is below him.

"It can't be helped. I'll have to start attending class with him."

The next day the classroom was noisy. That's because I stood next to Milli.

I had entered the classroom and was now standing at the front with Milli.

Not every student in the class has their own desk. Rather, the classroom more resembles a university. Every student was staring at me with an amazed expression.

Then, Milli began explaining to the class why I was here.

"— So from now on, Leon-sama will be attending class for a while."

By the way, Milli added "sama" because there are students and Patrick around. Even though she is an employee, most people know that she is my mother.

Anyway, I give a slight bow to the rest of the classroom, but all of the students look tense or scared. I think they were more comfortable before I entered.

I'm guessing this is due to the influence of Patrick.

"Everyone, I will be participating as a student. You don't need to be worried about my status as a noble."

"If that's the case, then....just Leon is fine. And I am your teacher after all. So, please call me, Milli Sensei."

"T-that's true. Milli Sensei, nice to meet you."

As expected of Milli. I'd like to compliment her for her quick thinking, but — she really just wanted me to call her sensei. She's trying to act casual, but she can't hide how happy she is after hearing that.

And so, the first hour of the class started. Michelle uses a blackboard and chalk to teach the students how to read and write letters.

And the students were hard at work taking notes with a pen and paper.

One thing I should mention, the blackboard, chalk, and washi are not from this world. This world would've originally had some type of pen and parchment.

Before I even realized it, Alice had instructed the craftsman to make even more things from our world.

For the time being, we are only producing these things for use in the town of Muhle. If a student were to steal these items, I'm sure they could sell them and live comfortably for the rest of their life.....For now, we don't have any delinquent students likely to do that.

Well, thinking about it, I doubt any of them know the value of these items. I seriously doubt any of them know the paper they use to practice writing is worthy of being a gift to the king.

If I were to tell them the value.....none of the students would feel like they're worthy of using the paper. So, for now, we should keep that a secret. Soon we'll be able to mass-produce the washi and then the price will severely drop.

By the way, Patrick doesn't even seem to be aware of its true value.

I think the reason for this is that Alice acts like the paper is worthless in an attempt to hide its true value.

Both Patrick and his two followers were yawning out of boredom.

I was annoyed at first, but — If I think about it, Patrick is a noble. I'm sure he was already taught how to read and write before coming here. So this is entirely unnecessary for him.

It may be better to teach him reading, writing, and advanced arithmetic separately. As well as teaching him some more technical knowledge. Maybe I should think about it some more.

"Then, Leon, what is the answer here?"

"Buu!?"

My name was suddenly called out and I let out a strange voice. I was here to participate as a student, but I wasn't expecting to actually get called on by Milli.

Hmm, the problem is —  $98 \times 97$ ?

.....Eh, what? Weren't we just practicing writing letters? Suddenly there are math problems appearing on the board that previously had letters. What is this?

"What's wrong? Do you not understand?"

"Eh, no. Just a moment."

Umm..... $98 \times 97$ ? Well before that, I can just use the Indian multiplication method because the numbers are close to 100.

Umm..... $100 - 98$  and  $100 - 97$  is 2 and 3 respectively, and add those together to get 5. Subtract 5 from 100 to get 95, multiply the 2 and 3 from earlier to get 6.....and together that's 9,506.

"Is it 9506?"

When I answered with a question, Milli quickly wrote down the formula on the board. And soon, she arrived at the same answer as me.

"As expected of Leon. Well done using mental math. Everyone, applaud."

Everyone in the class started to clap.....Wait, what is this farce?

Of course, I'd know how to do that, I'm the one that taught the teacher. In the first place, it's only been two months since the second group of students

started. Have they already advanced enough to be able to do calculations?

“Alright, if you all take your classes seriously, you’ll soon be able to do calculations in your head just like that.”

They haven’t advanced at all! It is a complete farce — and Patrick is staring at me with terrible eyes!

Well, this guy was asked the same question and he wasn’t able to answer because he was yawning, I just grin at him.

“Leon? Just because you understand the material, doesn’t mean you can mess around in class.”

Ah, right. I’m sorry.

And with that, the lecture ended. Finally, we moved on to a practical lesson. We arrived at the practice wheat field — but it is the end of May.

Because we’re in a warm region, the wheat has already been harvested. The field with nothing planted in it spread out before us.

“Everyone, today we will scatter ash in the field. I explained it a little bit earlier, but this will make it easier to grow wheat here. Everyone, please be sure to spread it evenly.”

Milli gave a signal, and one after another, all of the students began taking ash and spreading it throughout the field.

By the way, Patrick was....not helping at all. This is the main reason this school even exists, but he doesn’t seem to care at all.

“He~y, Leon onii-chan.”

Sophia suddenly started talking to me.

“What’s wrong? Why aren’t you spreading ash with everyone else?”

“Well, why are we spreading ash anyway?”

“Didn’t Milli explain a little while ago?”

“Umm, Milli told us that ashes make the crops grow better, but she didn’t tell us the reason why.”

“....Ah, it’s like that.”

I was trying to teach them so many different things in such a short time period, but I wasn’t able to go into detail on any of these things. If possible, maybe we should consider turning the school into a two-year school.

“Well, the ingredients in the ash promote growth in plants. Rather...the ash is a countermeasure to weakly acidic soil. Do you understand?”

“So, the ground is acidic and the ash is alkaline? But it’s only a bit acidic?”

“....Eh, why does Sophia know that?”

“Well.....In fact, recently, Alice onee-chan has been teaching me various things.”

“Are you serious...”

As usual, she shows no prudence — When I saw Alice looking at Sophia, she quickly turned her eyes away. She seems to be able to guess what I’m thinking.

“So, what about subacidity?”

“Ah, right, well.....the rain mixes with the carbon dioxide in the air and it becomes weakly acidic itself.”

“Carbon dioxide?”

“That is.....if we keep going on like this, the conversation will never end. Think about it like this, if the rain were to become weakly acidic, what would happen when the soil absorbed the rain?”

“....it will become acidic?”

Sophia tilts her head to the side. She’s really cute. I gently stroked her head after she gave the correct answer.

“Some crops can grow fine in acidic soil, but wheat is weak to acidic soil. So, by sprinkling ash over the soil, we neutralize the weak acid in the soil.”

When I looked up at Sophia’s face to make sure she was following along, she gave me a quick nod. She’s only eight years old, but she’s able to understand with just that explanation.

Maybe Sophia is a genius? No, I’m just acting like a doting parent — what a

dumb older brother I am. It happened when I was thinking about these silly things.

"Insolent commoner, you need to learn your place!"

From behind me, I could hear Patrick's yell, followed by a loud smack.

## Chapter 3-3: The End of the Man That Went Too Far

I ran in the direction of Patrick's loud voice. When I got near I saw him rushing up to Tina and I quickly placed myself in between them.

"Calm down, what happened?"

I protect Tina behind my back and ask Patrick this question.

"What do you mean what happened? That girl spoke to me disrespectfully."

"Okay. And what is Tina's side —"

I turned to look at Tina and her face quickly stiffened.

"It doesn't matter what I say, Leon-sama. This spoiled brat won't do anything on his own."

"Wh-what did you say!? I just told her to do this disgusting thing for me!"

"That's the same thing! So, I told you Leon-sama wouldn't want me doing that. Then, I got angry when you started yelling at me!"

"Wh-wh-wh-wh-, You.....Even though you're nothing but a commoner, you speak to a noble like that! Don't worry, I'll teach you your place now!"

Patrick tries to get closer to Tina. But before he was able to get to her, I again stepped in front of him.

"....Let's put an end to this. Didn't I tell you that you're not allowed to use your social status here?"

"What about it? Educating the commoners is a job of the nobility."

"....You're the worst."

"....."

I glanced at Patrick and then turned toward Tina.

"Le-Leon-sama?"

Tina's clearly worried and her body is trembling.

— Did I scare her? I showed as kind of a smile as possible and gently moved

my finger across her cheek.

"I'm sorry I surprised you. I'm not angry with you, Tina. Your cheek, did Patrick hit you?"

Tina's cheek was red and swollen. Thinking back, I remember hearing a loud noise at the same time Patrick had started yelling.

"That's.....well, I'm sorry. I'm sorry for causing trouble...."

"You're fine.....I should be the one apologizing. I was wrong."

Someday, other nobility will join this school. I wanted to have a small test before that day — but I was careless. That test was hurting the students here.

Within the first week, Patrick had started attending school, there were three reports of something similar to this happening. In other words, Patrick has done this same thing to at least three other students.

Nevertheless, having heard Tina's words, I don't care anymore. I don't care what may happen with the Marquis of Gramp...

I wasn't thinking about what these children were having to put up with.

"—Alice"

"Yes, what is it?"

".....Please look at Tina's cheek."

".....Will you be fine by yourself?"

"It's not for show that I train with you every day — or at least I'd like to say that, but I'm not confident. However, this is my fault. I should be the one to fix it."

"Okay, I understand. Now then....Tina-chan, I'll make your cheek feel better."

Alice calls Tina over to her. After seeing that, I turned to Patrick. Patrick seems to be angry that he has been ignored this entire time. His face is bright red.

"Wh-what are you going to do?"

"Isn't it obvious? You've gone too far."

"Wh-what are you saying!? Are you going to believe the words of a

commoner over me!?”

“I have no reason not to believe in her words. Besides, this isn’t the first time you’ve caused problems. You’ve caused too much trouble here. Didn’t you say you’d drop out if you caused problems?”

“Don’t joke with me! You expect me to drop out!? As if that would ever happen!”

Patrick keeps on pushing his argument, then I noticed a disgusting smile come across his face.

“....Ah, I understand. So you are doing something suspicious here. It would be bad for you if I found out, so you want me to drop out, right!?”

I don’t give him an answer. Patrick then brought his face close to mine, believing that he was right.

“Ha....ahahaha, bulls-eye? Oi, take back what you said earlier. Then, kneel down and say, ‘I’m sorry, Patrick-sama.’ Maybe then I will forgive you.”

“...out.”

“Ha? Speak up.”

“—I said get out!”

I raise my right hand and hit the right side of Patrick’s face.

Patrick’s completely stunned and takes two or three steps back before falling to the ground. While looking down on him, I give him one final warning.

“Never come to this school again.....No, never enter the Grances territory ever again. I will make this a place where my students can live happily.”

“Y...you....punched...You punched me!?”

“You hit Tina. You should be prepared to take a punch yourself.”

“Ah, right. Then, I guess you should be ready to take a beating yourself! Oi, Gilm! Teach this insolent brat a lesson!”

Patrick cries hysterically to one of his attendants.

Ah....right. I completely forgot about them. One of them is.....his steward and

the other is a knight.

Thinking about that, if I look towards them, the man with the better physique began approaching me with a vulgar smile on his face. I'm guessing the man named Gilm is the knight.

"Hahaha, it's an order. It's nothing personal, nobleman."

No, no matter what he says I can tell he's enjoying the thought of destroying a weak opponent.

Does Patrick think he can get away with using his bodyguard to attack an earl?

Is he really that confident in the power of the Marquis of Gramp, or is he just not thinking straight right now.....I'm not sure which is better.

"It's too late for you to beg and cry now, here I come!"

The man named Gilm begins rushing at me with his fist raised. He won't touch me....

Without touching me....he passed by. I then hooked my leg around his, causing him to lose his balance.

Like that, Gilm hopped on one leg awkwardly, before falling face first into the field.

"Oi, oi, Gilm, what are you doing?"

"Shut your mouth, Bale. I just had something in my eyes!"

Gilm then raised his face from the ground and turned his head towards me, but I was ready and kicked his chin right when we made eye contact.

"Gaa, th...th....is...brat...."

Does he have a concussion? Gilm collapsed with these final, annoyed words. A person just hit you and you carelessly look away from them? Is this guy an idiot?

"Well, your bodyguard seems to have passed out."

I turn to look at Patrick.

"This arrogant.....Don't get a big head just because you won. It was a fluke. I'll

just have to deal with you myself!"

Patrick says this and points his arm at me. He begins gathering a large amount of magical power at once.

The feeling of his magic....it's different than spirit magic. Perhaps this is the black magic I've heard about?

I see. The power of black magic is greater than spirit magic, but it's much less versatile. I wonder what kind of spell it will be.

I hope it's something I can deal with....

"Oi, how long are you going to be charging your magic?"

I ask a question to buy some time. I just need a moment or two to form the spell in my mind, but that's too long to effectively use magic in battle.

"Ha, the black magic used by Patrick-sama has a high casting time, but its power is immeasurable. It's hilarious that you don't know something like this. You'll be going to hell soon, so this is your last chance to pray!"

Even though Bale gave this brief explanation, Patrick's channeling isn't over yet.

"Fire Rain!"

—His channeling finished just as I thought that. There were six bright, red flames circling around me. I can tell just by looking at them, that they would easily kill me if they were to even touch me. Then, from six different directions, they all came at me at once.

The students screamed as they saw this.

And all of the flames were inches from me,

"Repent for your sins in hell!"

— Just as they were about to connect, I erased them all.

".....ha?"

"What was that.....about hell?"

"What is this!? Did I misfire? What did...What did you do?"

“Nothing much really. I just countered it with spirit magic.”

“Don’t joke with me! You didn’t cast anything!”

“....So?”

If the black magic is half as powerful as the magic used by Alice, I intended to do whatever I could to avoid it.

I was very worried about it, but.....Just like with the attack from Gilm earlier, I can counter this magic with ease.

I’ve been training with spirit magic for a year and a half now; I’ve definitely improved.

“Im-impossible, you can use spirit magic without chanting?”

“And if I were to say yes?”

“You must be joking! There’s only a handful of geniuses that can use magic without chanting! You’re telling me a child like you can do that!?”

“Even if you say something like that....”

Well, actually, this is only thanks to Alice’s sensory sharing. By myself this would be impossible, but.....I have no obligation to tell this to the guy that hit Tina.

“Is that really the best you can do?”

Alice, Alice, Alice. I always rely on Alice — I laugh a little at myself.

“Why.....this....mocking.....Continuing to mock me and make a fool of me! You dare look down on me!? Fine, I’ll kill you with my greatest magic!”

Patrick, who can’t hear my inner thoughts, is enraged. He starts chanting just like before. Does he really think he’ll have the time for that? At that time, I began collecting the mana in the atmosphere to form magical power in my body.

—The next moment, 32 blades of wind and blue flames formed around me in a semicircle.

By the way, my original flame spell just called on the Spirit of the Wind to bring oxygen to the flames to increase its power. Sadly, Alice was the one doing

most of the work.

The ultimate spell. A fusion of magic and science that does not exist in this world! I wish I was doing this on my own, but Alice is sneaky as always.

"H-How many are there!? There's no way you can control that many flames!"

"Don't worry, I can probably manage double this amount."

I slowly raise my arm.

One of the blue flames flew forward and landed next to Patrick. The blue flames were scattered about by the wind.

"Hiiiiiiiiii! Wa-wa-wa-wait a minute! We can talk about this!"

"Talk?"

"Y-yes. Recently we started a mine in our territory. We can give you some percentage of the profits, in exchange for Sophia."

"...Just stop talking already."

And all of the blue flames flew in the direction of Patrick at once. Patrick's face was overcome with fear.

".....Alright, I guess he fainted. That should be fine, right?"

I guess he fainted from fear, I muttered to myself while looking at Patrick.

He wasn't completely unharmed because the attack was similar to a hurricane, but there were no serious injuries. I just wanted to scare him.

For hitting Tina, this is the least I had to do.

"So, Bale, did you have anything to say?"

"Hiuuu!? I-is there anything I can do for you, Leon-sama!?"

What was that scream? This guy is scared as well. He even used honorifics. Was I a little too threatening?

.....Well, this makes things easier.

"When he wakes up, tell him to leave and never set foot in the Grances territory again. If he ever returns, I won't miss."

"Yes, right. I'll be sure to tell him!"

"Also, tell him to report me to the Marquis of Gramp if he wishes. And at that time, I will completely destroy the Rodwell family....Do you understand?"

"I....I understand!"

"Right, take these two and leave now."

"Yes, we'll leave right away!"

Bale runs off carrying Patrick and Gilm. I say 'carry' but it's more like he dragged them away. Being able to move two people around the same size as him, he must be pretty strong.

As I was watching this —

".....Le-o-n, can I talk to you for a moment?"

"Uwaa!?"

Suddenly, I could hear Milli's angry voice from behind me. When I turned around, I could see Milli smiling with her temple beginning to twitch in anger.

"Wh-wh-wh-wh-why are you angry!?"

"Fufufufufu~, did you not notice what you did to the field?"

"Field....."

I turned around to see a field that had been completely destroyed by my spirit magic.

"Do you have something to say?"

".....that's impressive."

"Leon-sama!?"

"Uwaaaa, I'm sorry! Please forgive me! I'll fix it!"

After that, I ploughed the field using spirit magic while crying.

Then, there were stories among the students that you should never make Milli Sensei angry. After that, it seemed that Milli's lessons went without any interruptions for a while.

## Chapter 3-4: Future Things

The city of Muhle, which was newly built in the Grances territory.

At the mansion of the Earl of Grances, in the innermost office, a pitiful lamb stood before the all powerful Empress.

.....Rather, I stood there being glared at by Claire.

"Didn't I tell you it would cause problems? I told you that you could absolutely not confront the Rodwell viscount head-on.....Did I not say that?"

"I...I think I remember hearing something like that."

"Yet you blew him away with spirit magic....."

"I-I'm sorry."

"And what was your reason for this?"

"Well, that....I couldn't forgive him for hitting Tina...."

"I understand that. I wouldn't have been able to forgive him either."

Claire's face was a mixture of many emotions, but I could see a faint look of anger appear on her face. She agreed with me though, I need to take this chance while I have it.

"Claire, I knew you'd understand!"

"That's true, but there was no need to fight him like that. Even if he hit Tina, if you attack a nobleman, you will be seen as the villain here."

"Ahh...."

I lowered my head after being scolded by this girl.

It seems fitting because I am eleven and she is twelve, but in reality, my mind is that of a thirty-year-old. So, it's actually quite pitiful. When I fell into a pit of self-loathing, Claire let out a small sigh.

"Hey, otouto-kun, I'm thankful for you and trust you. If you're determined to charge recklessly ahead, I won't stop you."

"Is that so?"

"Yes. However, this time is different. If we make an enemy of the Marquis of Gramp, the school may be destroyed. Isn't that the last thing you'd want to happen?"

....Ah, that's true. My goal was to protect Sophia and everyone, but my actions may lead to everyone losing this place they now call home.

.....I should have remained calm and thought things through. What on earth was I thinking?

"I'm sorry, Claire. I was reckless."

"Did you properly reflect on your actions?"

"Yes, I've reflected. I won't lose sight of our goals again."

".....Okay. If that's the case, then this talk is over."

Claire showed a gentle smile. It was like she was never mad in the first place.

"....You forgive me?"

"Well, you told me your real feelings. So, I feel a little relieved."

I don't fully understand her meaning, but Claire just smiled at me.

"I'm relieved, but why?"

"As a lord, it is best to ignore the small, immediate problems in order to focus on the bigger problems of the future. However, it seems that otouto-kun doesn't agree?"

"It doesn't seem so....."

Thinking about it, she's definitely right.

When I was isolated at the mansion, I was always desperate to overcome the problems in front of me. The me from those days probably would have found a way to deal with Patrick peacefully.

— But, my actions are entirely different now that I'm the head of the Grances family.

"....I was...wrong from the beginning?"

"Well, if he tries to pick a fight with you later, it may have been better if you backed down this time."

"Foolish...."

In hindsight.....I clearly underestimated Patrick. As I was feeling depressed, Claire started to smile and laugh.

"That may be true, but when you see someone in trouble, you have to do whatever you can to help them.....And I like that about you."

"Claire....I'm sorry. And, thank you."

This time was an honest error in judgement on my part. And that's why next time I'll definitely do better.

"But back to what we were talking about....we need to prepare for whatever Patrick may do. First of all, we need to think of a way to oppose the Rodwell family."

I was entirely expecting her to complain, but instead, she mentioned the Rodwell family. I looked a little confused.

We can't ignore the Viscount of Rodwell. Their family even owns a tin mine."

"A mine? Well, if they have a mine, then they probably have a respectable income. But does that mean they have power?"

"Otouto-kun...."

Eh? Why do Claire's eyes look disappointed!? She was just looking at me like she really cared for me, but now she looks so disappointed!

"D-Did I say something strange? Are the benefits of owning a mine significant?"

"That's right. Even worse, because we've lowered taxes due to the poor harvest this year, I wouldn't doubt the Rodwell family is bringing in more money than us."

"In other words, that means they have a lot of power?"

Even though we should've discussed a plan, Claire just smiled and tilted her head to the side. Then, she let out a sigh and said,

"We've received the first report from one of the graduates that were sent out to the surrounding villages."

"Ah, I wonder what it says — they've only been out for about two months, so there's probably not much to report."

"Umm, well, they've mostly just done a little bit of consultation here and there."

".....Eh? Is there some kind of problem?"

"Because of you, otouto-kun."

"....Me?"

But all I did was send them out to the Grances territory. I wouldn't feel safe sending a child out on their own, so they also have guards, but they're paid a salary. And everything they've been taught can be shown to the villagers immediately. I seriously can't think of anything that would be a problem....

"Did I do something?"

"Otouto-kun, didn't you give the graduates a uniform?"

"Ah....that's just proof that they're graduates from the school. What's wrong with that?"

"It seems there are many people trying to buy these uniforms from the graduates."

".....What?"

....The first thing that came to my mind, was a special type of person that wants to buy girls' used clothing. But that's not it. It's because the clothing they wear is made from materials they've never seen before. So, the people want to buy the uniforms."

"Supposedly, the largest company in the country would like to sell the uniforms for 200 gold coins."

"Even if you say 200 gold coins....I don't know the value of that."

Ah, I felt helpless, but it can't be helped. Since being reborn in this world, I've never had to go shopping on my own.

“By the way, how much do we earn from taxes?”

“Approximately 1,200 gold.”

“.....Wha-?”

“What is it?”

“If we used all of our tax revenue, we’d only be able to buy six uniforms....isn’t that too little?”

“The uniform is too expensive!”

.....Right, that does make more sense.

“—-Hmm? Doesn’t that mean it’s risky for the graduates to be wearing the uniforms?”

“It could be dangerous if they are careless.”

“We can’t wait, we need to increase the number of guards immediately!”

“Don’t worry about it. I’ve already taken care of that.”

I start to panic, but Claire just responds to me calmly. Then, she started to gracefully drink tea at her desk.

.....I’m at a disadvantage here. Maybe she doesn’t want to get angry?

“That company wants us to start selling the uniforms soon. They’d like us to sell to them first, before selling to any merchants or towns. For now, I’ve just postponed any talks with them.”

“So, everyone is well protected?”

“Yes, I prepared an excellent escort for them. Of course, I paid them well for the protection.”

“I see....”

Things can’t stay like this. This will become a serious issue if we don’t start selling the clothing soon. However, we should only sell it in a limited quantity at first.

“By the way, how much does an average person make yearly?”

“A farmer’s annual income is 1 – 4 gold coins.”

.....1 – 4 coins. So a farmer's average salary over 80 years would be able to buy one uniform.....That's ridiculous. With that price, would the king even be able to afford them?

Alright. I've been relying too much on Claire recently. I need to study the basics a little. If I don't even know the incomes of the people of the country, I can't possibly know how to help them properly.

"....I was just thinking, but the Rodwell family's income is a little more than us, right?"

"Yes, that's right."

"Then.....couldn't we make more than them by selling uniforms?"

The price right now is 200 gold coins per uniform, but if we sell some the price will begin to drop. They would still sell for a lot considering they're a unique luxury item.

If we mass-produce them and sell them, we will make more money than the Rodwell family.

"Did you finally realize it? If we monopolize any of your amazing creations, we can easily make more money than the Rodwell family. Well, otouto-kun wants to give everything out to the public for free...."

I finally understood why Claire has been so calm. We could easily generate more money than the Rodwell family.

"To be honest, the main concern is the Marquis of Gramp. Would the power we get from the excess money be enough?"

"Yes....in about a year or so, but we can start laying the groundwork now."

"Send ten of the uniforms to the Marquis."

"If the Marquis were a merchant that may be work. However, even though the Marquis was not directly involved in the incident with Patrick, attacking the Rodwell family like that reflects badly on the Marquis. In other words, the Marquis of Gramp feels insulted..."

"And we can't make amends with money?"

I guess that would depend on the other party. Claire is at least somewhat acquainted with him. I asked her what kind of person he is.

"To be honest, I don't know him that well, but he didn't seem like a bad person...."

"So he seemed like a good person?"

"I'd say he seemed like he was usually a good-natured person. It's possible he may be willing to take the money as reparations, but.....we don't know him well enough to know how he'll act. So, we need to prepare accordingly."

"In the worst case scenario, we'd have to fight the Marquis....."

"Well, we'll just need to come up with various strategies."

After that, Claire had a meeting with someone else, we set out a basic strategy and ended our meeting.

After our meeting had ended and I left Claire's office, I could feel multiple eyes watching me. As I looked around the hallway, I could see Sophia standing there.

"Sophia? What are you doing here?"

"....Leon...onii-chan. Sophia...Sophia.....\*gusu\*"

Sophia suddenly started crying. I panicked and quickly rushed over to her.

"*Hiccup*, sor....I'm sorry!.....*hiccup*.....Because of Sophia.....Because of Sophia, Tina onee-chan was hit. And I've caused Leon onii-chan so many problems."

Ah, I see. She feels responsible for Patrick.

"You don't have to worry about Patrick. It was my fault for not being able to protect everyone properly. So, there's no need for you to cry, Sophia."

"But....bu~ut.....You said that the school could be destroyed. If the school were to end because of Sophia.....uuu~"

".....Were you listening to Claire and me?"

"I'm sorry. I overheard when I was outside."

"I see...."

That makes sense. We never took any measures to soundproof the rooms. If Sophia were outside the door to the office, she would be able to hear us clearly. I gently stroked Sophia's head to comfort her.

"You don't need to be worried. The school will be fine. Claire just said that earlier to show me why I was wrong to do what I did. So, you don't need to worry."

-- This is a lie. Honestly, it is possible the school may be destroyed. However, I don't want to worry Sophia, so I need to tell her this lie.

Even if that is a possibility, I'll do whatever I can to prevent it.

"Really? It will really be fine?"

"It will absolutely be okay. It's the responsibility of the onii-chan to take care of his imouto. So, you don't need to feel responsible anymore."

"....Imouto...?"

Sophia mutters to herself.

"You don't like being called 'imouto'?"

"No, I'm happy that you'll protect me. But, Sophia doesn't want to just be protected. If Patrick tries to harm onii-chan, Sophia will....."

"—Sophia"

I grab both of Sophia's hands and stop her from going any further. I looked into her red eyes and tried to keep her from going into the darkness.

"I'm happy that you want to protect me, but you can't say stuff like that.....No, I don't want you to say stuff like that. So, promise me you will never say stuff like that again."

"But, Sophia can't do anything else. I can't use spirit magic like Alice onee-chan and I can't handle important work like Claire onee-chan."

"....I think you're just comparing yourself to the wrong people."

One person has the cheat of being a reincarnator and the other is a genius who was able to absorb most of the reincarnator's knowledge in about a year.

"Sophia is like everyone else; I just want to help Leon onii-chan."

“Well, you’re still a kid, there’s no need for you to rush.”

“But Leon onii-chan was already doing many things when you were around my age.”

Sorry, I’m a reincarnator, I’m definitely not normal. Seriously speaking, I think Sophia is a very gifted child.....I just think the people she compares herself to, are just too amazing.

“I understand your feelings, but, like I said, you don’t need to rush it—”

I suddenly cut my words there and turn my eyes to the end of the corridor.

“Tina, do you have a bad habit of eavesdropping?”

“Hauu!?”

I could see the hem of her skirt disappearing and reappearing around the corner of the corridor. However, it suddenly became silent. Then, Tina seemed to give up on hiding and appeared from around the corner.

“.....When did you notice?”

“When I left the office I could tell more than one person was watching me. Is your cheek okay?”

“Umm.....Yes, Alice took care of it and the swelling has stopped.”

.....Was she hit hard enough that the swelling wouldn’t stop without Alice’s care? Seriously, that Patrick. She’s only twelve, yet he didn’t hold back at all.

“So, why are you here, Tina?”

“Eh, well.....Sophia-chan was acting strangely earlier. I also felt like I should apologize for before.”

“I see. It’s fine though, I made sure Sophia understood she isn’t responsible.”

“But, if I had kept my calm earlier, you wouldn’t have had to intervene.”

“If you say that, I’m the one that should’ve remained calm. You really don’t need to be worried about it. Besides that, you’ve been more worried about Sophia, right?”

I cut my words there and turned toward Sophia.

"I don't know why you're so worried Sophia, but everything will be fine. Okay?"

"....Yes, I understand."

"Alright, then let's have tea with Tina in the dining room."

Like this, the disturbance caused by Patrick was over. One month later, we received a letter from the Marquis of Gramp.

# Chapter 3-5: Ultimate Choice

About one month after the disturbance caused by Patrick.

I turned twelve-years-old and was spending my days busy with finishing the clothing and making advancements with the crops.

One day, Claire called me to her office.....No, I didn't do anything bad. Rather, we received a letter from the Marquis of Gramp.

And that's why I was at the office that had become Claire's base.

Originally, this was meant to be my room as the head of the family. Since Claire has been using it so frequently, everything in the office has become Claire's private property.

"Otouto-kun, the reason I called you here is probably obvious. I'm sure you've heard, but we've received a letter from the Marquis of Gramp."

Based on Claire's behavior, I'm guessing the letter isn't terrible. But, I can't know for sure without asking.

"What did the letter say?"

"First, he complained about a member of the Rodwell family humiliating himself."

"A complaint.....Maybe Patrick didn't say I was doing anything suspicious here?"

"That seems likely. The Rodwell family is connected to the Gramp house. It would be pretty shameful if everyone knew the heir to the Rodwell family was out picking fights with other noble families — The letter continues."

"Uwaa...then.....What is the Marquis' request?"

I'd be fine if he wanted us to apologize or to even pay reparations.

However, if he wants us to close the school or give Patrick Sophia, I won't be able to go along with that.

I held my breath and waited for Claire's answer.

"The Marquis demands that....otouto-kun and I must go to his mansion so he can hear our explanation."

"You mean...he wants to hear our side of the story?"

"It seems like he wants to first hear our side. By the way, he's given us sixty days to decide and travel to his mansion....Factoring in travel time, we have fifty days to decide if we will go or not."

"Hmm, that grace period is quite long. Maybe he isn't such a bad person then."

"Unfortunately, I have my doubts about that. It's possible he intends to send spies to thoroughly examine the Grances territory and find any weaknesses while we're away."

"I see....So you think his true intention is to spy on our territory?"

"The students and employees at the school should be fine. Everyone there is easily recognizable and anyone new would be very obvious. But there's nothing we can do for the rest of the territory."

"Well, that's true."

Anyway, it seems difficult to handle this in a normal way. I don't really know how the talks will go with the Marquis, but it seems he seriously plans to crush us if we don't at least talk with him.

"By the way, I know why he wants me to go, but why do you think he called you, Claire?"

"It's probably because I am temporarily the head of the family."

"Maybe it has something to do with your engagement.....?"

I was thinking it may be possible that the Marquis would want to become engaged to Claire again and would demand that as part of the negotiations. If that were the case, why would he ask Claire to go as well....

"Is it possible the Marquis of Gramp hasn't given up on you yet?"

"Honestly, I'm not sure about that. When we met, he seemed to like me a lot."

"Muu....that is troublesome."

"True. If we don't know the Marquis' true intentions, we can't possibly come up any countermeasures."

"He may ask to give Sophia to Patrick as his bride, or to give Claire to him as his bride — or maybe demand both."

At that moment I could hear a rattling sound from outside the door.

".....Hmm? Is there someone there?"

I opened the door and looked out into the corridor. I could see the back of a uniform running away down the hall. Is that the medium length blonde hair of Sophia?

"Was someone out there?"

"Sophia seems to have overheard our talk."

"Sophia overheard us? Isn't that bad?"

".....Ah, it's very bad."

It was just a hypothetical situation, but the way I said it made it seem like it's impossible to save both Sophia and Claire. Sophia must be feeling quite anxious after hearing that.

"I'll go after her."

"Yes, that would probably be for the best. Ah, wait a minute."

"Hmm? What is it?"

"Actually, it seems that Patrick is making moves in secret. And —"

I finished listening to Claire's story and quickly went after Sophia. I passed by Alice and she told me Sophia looked like she was heading to her room.

So my destination is Sophia's room.

".....Sophia, please don't do anything drastic."

Recently, she has become happier, but Sophia is still unstable. When I imagine what Sophia may be thinking after hearing what we said, my heart begins to hurt.

Why wasn't I more careful? I should've known what we were saying could be heard from outside the room.

I stood at the door to Sophia's room, blaming myself for this situation.

"Sophia, it's Leon. Can I come in?"

I knocked on the door with an uneasy feeling in me.

"Eh, Leon onii-chan? No! Don't come in!"

As expected, she didn't want to see me. But, I can't just leave like this. Sophia definitely misunderstood my words earlier. I can't leave Sophia alone when she's feeling so upset.

So — I opened the door and entered her room.

"Sophia, I know you're feeling anxious, but you don't need to hide from me. I won't abandon Sophia....so...you..."

I quickly became speechless — Sophia was changing her clothes in front of me. Sophia covered her chest with her removed uniform and her crimson eyes widened.

— There was a brief moment of silence.

Then, Sophia's face became bright red and she began to panic.

"Le-Leon onii-chan? Wh-what do you mean I don't have to hide? You want to see So-So-Sophia's na...naked body?"

"Fu~u!? Yo-yo-you're wrong! That's definitely not it!"

"B-but, Sophia's breasts aren't growing like Alice onee-chan or Claire onee-chan.....ah! You said you knew I was worried, but you wouldn't abandon me, right? S-so that means, onii-chan sees Sophia as a....umm...."

"Uwaaaaaaaaaa! Calm down, that's not what I meant!"

I desperately tried to stop Sophia as she was beginning to lower the uniform covering her chest.

After that, I explained why I was here and cleared up the misunderstanding. However, once Sophia had finished changing clothes, she seemed to be in a very bad mood.

“Muuu~....”

“It was bad of me to enter like that. It was my fault, but please cheer up a little.”

“You really think it was bad?”

“Yes. I’m really sorry.”

“Then, Leon onii-chan should take responsibility for seeing Sophia’s naked body.”

“Wha-!? Don’t say strange things like that! I only saw your underwear for a second!”

“Fu~un.....so you saw my underwear.”

“Ugh!?”

Th-this is terrible. Being judged by the innocent Sophia is terrible! Please stop looking at me like that!

“So, will onii-chan take responsibility or do I have to make you take responsibility?”

“That’s....”

Will I take responsibility voluntarily or will I have to be forced to take responsibility? Between these two choices, it would be better if I took responsibility voluntarily....wait, “Why do the two options both involve me taking responsibility!?”

“Onii-chan hasn’t properly reflected on his actions yet.”

“.....I’m sorry.”

## Chapter 3-6: Devilish Sophia

“So, will onii-chan take responsibility or do I have to make you take responsibility?”

Even if she repeats the question, the two options are unreasonable. Still, even if it was an accident, I can’t refuse her. It was my fault that I saw her changing clothes.

“Mu~, muu~ .....I’ll take responsibility, but what does Sophia plan on making me do?”

“How about making Sophia your bride?”

“No, even if you ask that....”

“....You...don’t want to?”

Sophia’s face is distorted by sorrow. I don’t know what to do after seeing her suddenly become depressed like this.

“To Leon onii-chan, Sophia is just an unnecessary child?”

“You’re definitely not an unnecessary child.”

“You’re lying.”

“That’s definitely the truth.”

“Then, if you had to give up Claire onee-chan or Sophia, what would you do, Leon onii-chan?”

....Ah, so she overheard us after all. Perhaps, she was worried that we might give her away just like that?

“That was just a hypothetical situation. No matter what happens, I wouldn’t give either of you up.”

There is a definite possibility the Marquis may want one or even both of them. And there would probably be no room for negotiation with him. But, just because there’s no room for negotiation doesn’t mean I’d give either of them to him.

I would never give Sophia to him.

“Really?”

“Yes, really.”

“Then, you won’t hand over Sophia?”

“Yes, I would never hand you over to them.”

“Then, you’ll make Sophia your bride?”

“Yes, I’ll make you my bride — Oi!”

“....Muu, that’s disappointing. It was so close too.”

Wait a minute. Sophia stuck her tongue out at me, when did she become so devilish? Who was the one that taught the innocent Sophia such devilish tricks?

“Hey, Sophia. Didn’t you tell me you had been learning a lot from Alice?”

“Yes, she taught me a lot. Why?”

“Does that mean...she taught you stuff like what you did a little earlier?”

“Yep, that’s right. When Sophia tries her best, Alice onee-chan seems to be very happy.”

“I knew it was that girl!!!!”

I’ll need to call her to the back of the school later! (TN: This just means to call Alice behind the school building for a fight.)

.....Wait? So, was Sophia just acting like she was depressed? She heard the conversation between Claire and I and thought she could take advantage of the situation?

“Hey, Sophia, are you okay?”

“I’m not okay. I was really embarrassed.”

“Please, just forget about that already!”

“Mu....Then, what did you want to talk about?”

“Everything that’s happened with Patrick. You felt you were responsible for him before, right? I was thinking you might be feeling depressed after hearing

what Claire and I said.”

“Were you worried about me?”

“Well, I know you heard our conversation earlier and then saw you running away.”

“That.....Yes, I was surprised after hearing that.”

“If that’s the case —”

I tried to continue, thinking Sophia really was depressed. However, Sophia just shook her head and interrupted my words.

“I was surprised and definitely in shock. I also thought about killing Patrick if he were to cause trouble because of Sophia.”

Uwaaaaa, as expected! I’m glad I came to see her so quickly.....huh?

“You thought about killing him? That means you don’t think that way now?”

“Alice onee-chan said, ‘Sophia-chan can’t be doing things like that. You must not do things that Leon doesn’t like.’ ”

Oh, that Alice. She was actually taking care of Sophia mentally.

Maybe we don’t actually need to go behind the school building.

“As your sister-in-law, Sophia needs to cajole Leon onii-chan.” (TN: Cajole here is supposed to have a double meaning. Alice means seduce, Sophia takes that to mean she should support Leon.) After all, we do need to go behind the school!

Seriously, that Alice. She’s been too much to handle recently. She may be doing it because she’s worried about Sophia, but she’s been overdoing it recently.

“Leon onii-chan, will you also take Sophia with you to meet the Marquis of Gramp?”

“Eh, why are you asking that so suddenly?”

“I’m supposed to cajole you. Alice onee-chan said it was best to be useful to Leon onii-chan.”

"R-right."

Let's not point out her mistake. Well, it's good that Sophia is going to try her best, so there's no reason for me to deny her.

"So, I've been trying to think of what I can do to help Leon onii-chan."

"And you want to go see the Marquis? Don't tell me you plan on sacrificing yourself?"

If that were the case, there's no chance I'd take her with us. But, Sophia just slowly shook her head.

"Sophia only has one thing — my ability."

"....Your ability to read a person's mind."

It certainly would be useful in negotiations. We'd be able to know everything the other person is thinking. That way we'd know what they want and what they would be willing to give up.

However....

"I thought you couldn't use your ability anymore?"

"Recently, I've been able to read people's feelings again. I'm still afraid to read people's minds though."

"I see."

Sophia's abilities would be a great help, but.....The reason I'm going to meet with the Marquis is to protect Sophia and everyone else. I can't burden Sophia here.

"I'm happy you want to help, but you don't need to push yourself."

"No, I want to work hard. If it's for Leon onii-chan, I think I can overcome the trauma that caused me to lose my ability."

....I see. Sophia wants to work hard as well.

Okay. It should be fine since this is an official meeting. I don't think the Marquis will try to use any force. Even if he does I can protect her to some extent.....but will she be okay mentally?

“.....Alright, if Alice is okay with it, we’ll take you with.”

“Really?”

“Yep. As long as Alice agrees.”

I feel a little embarrassed leaving the decision entirely up to Alice, but I’m not calm enough to make such a big decision right now. If Alice is also okay with it, then I believe it really is okay for Sophia to come with.

“Alright! Then, I’ll go get permission!”

Sophia says this and immediately tries to run out of the room. I panicked and quickly grabbed her arm.

“Wait a second. You don’t need to be in a hurry. We’re not planning on leaving anytime soon.”

“Is that so?”

“The deadline he gave us is two months from now. In the meantime, we plan on gathering as much information as possible before meeting with him. Besides, there are still many problems in the Grances territory. So our main concern now is fixing these problems.”

“Problems.....What’s going on? The food shortage was fixed by bringing in food, right?”

“Yeah, that’s been taken care of, but Patrick seems to be spreading rumors throughout the territory.”

“....Bad rumors? What kind of rumors is he spreading?”

“I guess it’s about the reason I’ve gathered children here. I used the excuse that I wanted to teach them here to cover my true intentions. He said the real reason I’ve gathered girls here — is a more suspicious reason.”

“....That person, he really is just disgusting.”

Uwaa, Sophia’s look of disgust is amazing. Maybe if Sophia were to stare at Patrick with those eyes, he would just collapse under the pressure and not be able to recover.

“That’s why the children’s parents that have heard these rumors are worried

and want their children back.”

“Eh, but.....Everyone’s parents are just misunderstanding the real reason Leon onii-chan gathered everyone here.”

“Well, that’s true. I really did gather everyone here to teach them. But, if they really believe I have them here for other reasons, it only makes sense that they’d be reacting this way.”

— And so, I explained the full situation to Sophia.

I was kind of vague with the details of the rumor earlier, but the rumors are honestly pretty terrible. They’re bad enough that some people would rather sell their children into slavery than have them stay here.

“Didn’t you explain your side though? You’re not doing anything bad. Couldn’t you just clear everything up if you talked with them properly?”

I even received a report from an incident that happened in one village, where the villagers would throw stones at the knights escorting the graduates through the village. It’s good that the knights tolerated it. If they had handled it poorly there could have been a riot.

“Then, can we just arrest the people spreading these rumors?”

“I wish it were that easy. How do you think the people would respond to the Earl arresting people spreading these rumors? To them, it would seem like I was just trying to silence these people speaking the truth.”

“I see.....to the people from the villages, onii-chan would appear to be the bad guy.”

“That’s right.”

It seems the knights are trying to correct these misunderstandings, but they haven’t made much progress so far. Things can’t be allowed to go on like this.

In the worst case scenario, the students would have to be returned to their villages before any riots start. At the very least, this would clear up the parents’ misunderstandings.

This would lead to massive delays in the classes. So, it’s something I absolutely want to avoid.

"Hmm, that's troublesome. I wish you could go speak with everyone. If they were to meet with you, I'm sure they'd be able to tell you're not a bad person."

"....Eh? A-Aaaaahh! That's it! That's a great idea, Sophia!"

"E-eh? What is it?"

"The parents of the students just need to come here."

I can show them this town and they can meet with the students.

Patrick was not shown the majority of the town, but if I show the parents all of the advancements in this town, they'd have to understand that I'm truly trying to teach the students.

Farmers can't afford to go on a trip for one or two weeks, but it should be fine if we cover the cost of travel and other expenses. Alright, this can work! It will work!

"— Let's invite everyone's parents here!"

# **Chapter 4-1: Let's Invite Everyone's Parents Here!**

After the decision to invite the student's parents here, the hectic days continued.

First off, I talked with the students, learned of where they lived and sent out the invitations.

At that time, the students that knew of what had happened offered to write letters to their families to explain the situation. However, I declined and just accepted their feelings.

Most of the students couldn't write before coming to this school; it would be impossible for their parents to know if it was actually their child or not.

This wouldn't be enough to convince the parents. So, the plan was for us to meet with the parents and convince them at that time.

Next, we needed to mobilize the knights discreetly to find the source of all of the false rumours in our territory. I can not have this person captured now, but if they were to leave a village or if these false rumours were to be cleared up, I can capture them then.

I will definitely find a way to get back at Patrick.

I've also begun gathering information to oppose the Marquis of Gramp. We are investigating the situation with the Gramp family and trying to find any information we can use to negotiate with the Marquis.

By the way, Claire isn't the one in charge of this.

Since she is doing her usual work and handling the job of inviting the parents to the school, I was afraid handling any more work would be too stressful for her.

Well, I know her dream is to be successful on her own so I won't interfere too much unless she's clearly overworking herself.

One day and one month passed.

Around twenty parents were gathered in the student dormitory.

By the way, as there are currently thirty students, only around 60% of the parents are here. The first graduates have already explained the situation to their parents and so, there was no confusion with them.

On the contrary, there is clearly a lot of people here misunderstanding the situation. Those who aren't even trying to hide their anger and those that are clearly uneasy. There is an overwhelming negative atmosphere in the room.

I was standing in the shadows observing the situation. I took a deep breath and slowly moved forward.

I could see they were all curious to see who the person in charge was, but once they saw a twelve-year-old child appear, they all looked confused.

"Nice to meet you. I am the head of the Grances family, Leon Grances."

"So it was true? The rumour that a child had become the head was true?"

"You mean to say such a child controls our future?"

"Look at his expensive clothing."

"Ah, I wasn't even sure such a luxurious building was a house at first. We suffer yet he lives in such luxury."

"After all, the rumours were true!"

After my introduction, a noise slowly spreads out through the crowd. The voices aren't that loud, but I can understand the general meaning behind them.

Isn't it a little much to be so rude to the earl!? I would usually try to stop this talk, but in this situation, I really can't speak out at all.

I patiently wait for everyone to quiet down and begin to speak.

"Now, the reason everyone has gathered here. I know you've heard these terrible rumours about how your daughters are being treated poorly here. I've gathered you here today to clear up these misunderstandings."

The noise from the crowd increases again.

"I know you're upset, but if you don't remain calm, we'll never get anywhere. Do you have a representative to ask questions?"

To my question, everyone looks at one another. Meanwhile, a quiet old man

walked forward.

“Excuse me, but I’d like to be the representative.”

“You?”

“I’m acting as the chief of Rejykk. My name is Kyle.”

I see the village chief. That explains why he’s so calm....he’s the village chief of the parents that sent their children here. I guess everyone is really having a difficult time in life no matter what their position.

“Well then, Kyle, what questions do you have?”

“Please, tell us if the rumours are true or not.”

“Can you be more specific? I’m not even sure about the content of all of the rumours.”

“Well....that’s...”

I’m guessing the rumours are all negative and criticize me.

“Well....The rumours say that Leon-sama is living lavishly using the money you’ve gathered from the taxes while the rest of the people suffer. As for the children you’ve gathered they say.....you torture them.”

“I see. I’ll respond to each of the rumours individually, but first, let me say, they are all complete lies.”

The moment I said they were lies — the noise from the crowd erupted once more.

“Everyone, let Leon-sama speak first. We will hear from him first, then we can decide what needs to be done.”

Kyle yells at the rest of the crowd and quiets them all down. As expected of a village chief. He’s definitely calmer than the others.

“Leon-sama, may I ask you a question?”

“Yes, ask anything.”

“Well, as you said earlier, the girls are safe, right?”

“Of course, they’re doing fine. You can all meet with them a little later.”

Rather, they're currently waiting in the next room over. We're planning on having them come out at the right time to hopefully have a strong impact.

"Well then, you said you aren't living in luxury?"

"Yes, that's true."

"Then, how do you explain this mansion or the fine clothes you're wearing?"

"Well....This building and these clothes are expensive, but these are only a prototype. Before long, I wish for everyone to be able to afford clothes like these."

"You plan for us to afford clothing like that? E-Excuse me, but may I ask the price?"

"Somewhere around 100 gold coins."

The clothing I wear is of a simpler design than the girl's uniform that costs 200 gold pieces. I thought it was a bit cheap, but....when I mentioned the price the atmosphere of the room changed.

"100 gold coins? You're saying that a house that costs 100 gold coins will be given to us soon?"

"Ah, sorry. The price I just mentioned was for the clothing."

The moment I said this, the atmosphere in the room completely split open.

"Leon-sama doesn't understand the struggles we go through every day! Even if that clothing cost 1/10 of the price, we wouldn't be able to afford it even if we saved all of the money we make in our lifetime."

"So, commoners would never be able to wear this clothing?"

"Of course not! Even if Heaven and earth were to be flipped, we'd never be able to afford them!"

"— That's right stop joking around!"

"— Even if the price was one gold coin it would be impossible!"

Everyone begins yelling at once.

"But your daughters are all wearing this clothing now."

“““.....ha?“““

“By the way, the design of their clothing is a bit different. So, their clothing costs around 200 gold coins.”

“““.....ha?“““

“There’s also been a misunderstanding about this building. This is actually the student dormitory where the girls live.”

“““.....ha?“““

Well, if they just keep repeating “....ha?” I have no idea how to respond.

.....I guess I can understand how they’re feeling.

Anyway, now that the setup is complete, I snapped my fingers. The students entered in from the next room and lined up behind me.

By the way, the girls are dressed a little differently today. Because they’re meeting with their parents today in addition to wearing their normal uniforms, they’re also wearing hair ornaments and other accessories.

Because of the gothic style uniform, it looks like they’re some kind of idol group. It would be impossible for even the princesses of this world to wear such expensive clothing.

How’s that? Are they amazed that the daughters they haven’t seen for so long have become so cute? Now, enjoy this great reunion with your cute daughters — why do they all look puzzled?

“Umm.....are you not happy to see your daughters again?”

“““.....ha?“““

“No, we’ve already been through that. Didn’t you want to see your daughters?”

“““.....Daughter? Where is she?“““

“They’re right in front of you. They’re wearing beautiful clothing, their hair is smooth, the sunburn they all had is gone, and their skin has all become quite fair, but they are undoubtedly your daughters, right?”

“““HAAAAAAA!?”“““

Are they really this surprised!?

Well, if I think about it, it may be strange seeing their daughters go from wearing essentially a jersey to wearing expensive western clothes.

That may be too much for them. The students also look puzzled.

As I was thinking this, Lyanna came up beside me and smiled at Kyle.

“Father, it’s been a long time.”

Ah, so Kyle is the father of Lyanna

Lyanna is probably the cutest of all the second group of students. Kyle is seeing his daughter dressed up and beautiful for the first time.

“See? Your daughter is doing fine.”

I asked him this expecting a surprised reaction, but he just stared at me with a blank expression....Eh, what is it? Why is he staring at me?

“Kyle-san? Is something wrong?”

“This is ridiculous. There’s no way such a beautiful young lady is my daughter. Now, please bring out the real Lyanna!”

This guy. Can’t he recognize his own daughter!?

“Umm.....Well, this is Lyanna.”

“Hahaha, don’t be foolish. My daughter has tanned skin and unkempt hair. Umm.....Right, she looks like a poor peasant girl — Gah!?”

Uwaa, Lyanna just kicked Kyle in the shoulder!

“Th-this violent feeling!? Oooh, is it really you, Lyanna!?”

“Shut up! Why do you recognize my kick but not my face!?”

“—Gaha!?”

Lyanna just hit him with a roundhouse kick! I wonder if he’s okay — Ah, he collapsed.

I didn’t know our school taught martial arts....The power behind that kick was impressive. I didn’t even know a fourteen-year-old girl could do something like that.

Still.....It would be better if she stopped doing high kicks while wearing a skirt.

"I taught her martial arts for self-defense. Besides Leon, the lasers are working properly."

"Alice.....where did you come from? Also, don't read my mind without permission. That's supposed to be Sophia's ability. Besides, I can't see anything anyway; don't treat me like a criminal."

"Anyway, it seems everyone has reunited with their daughters."

.....After my conversation with Alice, I turned my eyes to my surroundings.

It seems that all of the parents have reunited with their daughters. They seem to be surprised with the changes in their children but are just happy to see them safe.

But the students that are not meeting with their parents are just talking amongst themselves..... I see, the parents of the students that never believed the rumours did not come.

I should have invited everyone's parents. I'll be sure to do that once these misunderstandings are cleared up.

A few minutes passed as I watched their reunion. Finally, the parents seemed to calm down and everyone looked at me.

"Can I assume the misunderstandings about me have been cleared up?"

The moment I asked, Kyle lowered his head. Shortly after, all of the other parents did the same.

"I've heard about the situation from Lyanna. Leon-sama treats the girls very well. I'm sorry for doubting you!"

"Alright. As long as the misunderstandings have been cleared up. You can all raise your heads."

"No, there are still some things that need to be said. We were incredibly rude to you, we take full responsibility for it. Our children had nothing to do with this, so...."

"Ah~, you don't need to be worried about it."

I know what he wants to say, so I interrupt Kyle's words.

"Lift your head. It was my fault for causing the misunderstandings in the first place. I am the one that needs to apologize for worrying you all."

I lowered my head to them. At that moment, I could tell they were all shocked. None of them expected a noble to bow his head to them.

Well, I'm not much of a noble. I have no issue bowing my head to them...but if I act too respectfully I might make them feel a little uncomfortable.

I thought this and quickly raised my head.

"Anyway, I will never blame anyone here for anything that's happened today."

I plan on finding the people responsible for spreading the rumours. I add this at the end without saying it.

"Leon-sama, you're too kind. Thank you."

"It's fine. You travelled a long distance. I hope you can stay a couple days and see what your children are studying."

"No, well...we have work we need to do in the fields."

"It's okay. I have people there to take care of your work while you're away."

"If you say so. Staying for a little while should be fine...."

"Yes, please do."

And spread the word about the usefulness of the knowledge taught at this school.

Needless to say, the students are already familiar with the city.

And several days passed.

"Uwaa~, getting to rest in a hot spring every day. Is this paradise~"

"The food is so delicious~"

"Water comes out if you turn the faucet~"

""""I never want to return to the village~~~""""

The villagers would not return by choice, so they were forced to return to their villages.

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Here are some more rough sketches of some of the characters in Volume 2. From left to right they are Tina, Lyanna, a sketch of the girl's uniform (or maybe the headless body of a character!?), the Marquis of Gramp, and Leon.

## Chapter 4-2: Off to the Marquis of Gramp's Territory

It was less than two weeks until the deadline set by the Marquis of Gramp. In the afternoon, we got on a carriage to head to his territory.

By the way, the carriage is designed by Alice and me with no prudence in mind.

The carriage has temperature control thanks to Alice's inscription magic, better suspension, and the ride is less bumpy thanks to the material, that's similar to rubber, we used to make the wheels. It is a much more comfortable ride compared to any other carriage.

Claire, Sophia, Alice, Tina, and I all ride in the carriage. In addition, there are also six knights guarding the carriage.

.....Hmm?

Claire and I were the two invited. Tina is coming as a representative of the students and Sophia wants to help using her ability. The knights are our escorts.....

"Hey, Alice? Why are you here?"

".....Haven't you been treating me poorly lately?"

She stared at me with scornful eyes.

"O-Of course that was just a joke. It's just, I thought it would be better if you stayed back to protect the school."

"The school is safe with the knights protecting it."

"Well, that's true. However, we'll be away for a long time. Aren't you anxious? Will you be fine for that long?"

"....Leon you idiot. If I stayed at the school, I wouldn't be able to see you for an entire month. I wouldn't be able to meet with the person I love. I.....I don't want that."

"....."

I...I wasn't ready for that answer! The power of her watery eyes is too much!

Calm down. I need to calm down.

It's fine. We're in the carriage with Tina, Claire, and Sophia. This sweet atmosphere can't last in this situation.

"Hey, hey, Claire onee-chan. Is that what you call a frontal assault?"

"Basically. When a normally outspoken girl unexpectedly shows a weak face the effect is doubled. It's the most basic move, but works every time."

"I need to study harder."

Stop it! What are you even studying!? Besides Tina, why do you need to learn this!? I don't know who you're planning on using this on, but don't do it because it would be troublesome to them!

"...Leon?"

"Ah, I'm sorry. I was just a little worried about the school for a moment. Of course, I'm happy that Alice is here with me."

"Fu~fu~, I'm glad to hear that."

Alice started smiling brightly. Why is she so obvious with her feelings?

"Leon-sama, can I speak with you for a moment?"

Suddenly, I could hear a woman's voice coming from outside the carriage. A red-haired knight on a horse could be seen walking alongside the horse-drawn carriage.

"Is something wrong?"

"No, the surroundings are clear and there have been no reported issues so far. I just haven't had an opportunity to introduce myself yet."

"Now, that I think about it I don't recognize your face."

"Yes, I'm here for Claire Ridill-sama. I'll be the commander of the guard unit on this trip. My name is Elsa. I'm looking forward to working with you."

"He~e, you're so young, but already a commander? We'll, we'll be in your care."

After I said this, Elsa's face became slightly surprised.

"Is something wrong?"

"Ah, no. Rather, I just thought you were worried that I was too young or about the fact that I'm a woman."

"When it comes to age, neither Claire or I can really complain. As for being a woman..."

I glance at Alice.

"Hou, is she strong?"

"She's able to use spirit magic. Even if we were attacked by bandits, Alice could take care of them with little effort."

"Fu~fu~, that's reassuring. However, we've here to protect you so leave the fighting to us."

"I'll rely on you at that time.....But, are there any monsters in this area?"

"Because this is a highway, I doubt any monsters will try to attack us here, but there is a chance that bandits will try to attack us."

"Bandits...."

"You don't need to worry about anything. No bandits would be stupid enough to attack a carriage with so many armed guards."

You just raised a terrible flag!

— One week later. We were now in a mountainous area in the Gramp territory. Of course, we are surrounded by about 20 bandits.

.....Right, I was expecting as much after Elsa raised that flag.

"If you don't want to die, you'll give us all of your valuables right now!"

"Bastards. Do you plan on attacking the Earl of Grances!?"

"Even better. That means you'll have plenty of valuables."

"Guh, clearly there's no room for negotiation.....Everyone! Don't let a single bandit get near the carriage!"

Under the command of Elsa, five knights surrounded the carriage.

"Hey, Elsa? Will you guys be alright?"

I poke my face out of the carriage and ask Elsa this.

"Don't show your face, Leon-sama! They'll try to target you with a bow!"

"Ah, right....I'll be careful, but can you really take care of all of them?"

"Don't worry about anything! Even if we have to fight to our dying breath, we won't let a single enemy reach you!"

This is quite the predicament.

"I admire your resolve....But, I'd rather you not die in a place like this. How about — we take care of half of them?"

I got out of the carriage and turned my eyes to Alice.

"They've completely surrounded us, but we might be able to capture them all alive"

"Eh, right....You plan on capturing them by yourself?"

As I was thinking of what to do, Alice jumped on top of the carriage.

"Listen up, bandits!"

Alice yelled out to the surrounding bandits.

At that moment, a large blade of wind was sent out in every direction — Oi!? What kind of devil attacks immediately after telling everyone to listen!?

The blade of wind cut clean through all of the surrounding trees but didn't hurt a single bandit.

"""".....Eh?""""

The bandits looked around at all of the trees now lying on the ground. As soon as they understood what had happened, all of their faces turned white.

"If you try to escape, your body will be split in half. If you try to attack us your entire body will be turned to ash. Your only choice is to throw your weapons aside and kneel where you stand."

— All of them surrendered.

....Well, it was a good idea to demonstrate how powerful she is before asking

for their surrender....Are elves just naturally destructive?

Ah, maybe it's because she was a human in her previous life.

"Umm....Leon-sama, Alice-sama, well.....are you some kind of legendary hero?"

Elsa asks this while her face is completely blank.

"You don't need to worry about anything. That was just the Alice cheat."

"Ha....haa~...."

"More importantly, tie up the surrounding bandits. I'd like to talk with them."

"R-Right. I'm sorry, I'll get right to that! — You, tie up these bandits immediately!"

Elsa issued instructions to her subordinates and the bandits were quickly tied up.

"Now then, who is your leader?"

I asked the question to the kneeling group of bandits. Shortly after, a man slowly raised his hand.

"Are you the bandit's leader?"

"What's it to you?"

"I'd just like to know what you meant by 'even better.' You said that earlier when you heard the name of our house."

I'd like to know if he reacted the way he did because of the title of earl or because of the Grances name.

".....If you'll listen to my request, I'll answer your questions."

"— Bastard, know your place!"

Elsa roars at the bandit leader.

"Elsa, you can leave this to me."

"But....Alright. If Leon-sama says so."

Elsa took a step back and I turned my gaze back to the bandit.

"What is your request? You know I can't let you escape from here."

"I know. That's why I want you to kill us here and now."

".....May I ask why?"

"If we're to be killed anyway, I'd rather we die without any suffering."

I wasn't sure what he meant, but Elsa went on to explain that a thief would be sentenced to work as a slave. They would be forced to work in harsh environments until they die.

"I understand your request. I'd like to ask why you became a bandit if you knew this would be your punishment."

"We had no choice but to resort to this life! The Marquis of Gramp took all of the food from our village!"

The bandit went on to explain the circumstances that led to them becoming bandits. Until recently, they all seemed to live in a nearby village.

But after several years of bad harvests and extreme taxes, they could no longer keep living as they had been.

Under these circumstances, their taxes would normally be reduced. However, this year their taxes increased and they had no choice but to become bandits.

By the way, a while back we did surveys of the Marquis of Gramp's land and determined their soil was as poor as our own. So it's likely they're telling the truth.

However...

"Was every village required to pay the normal taxes?"

"No, I heard the neighboring villages had their taxes reduced. I'm guessing.....we were abandoned."

"I see...."

Is that really true? Is it just a coincidence that the one village required to pay normal taxes just happened to be on our direct route to the Marquis of Gramp?

.....Isn't that too much to be a coincidence? No, it's impossible for him to know they'd resort to this and for him to know the exact route we'd take.

Besides, I don't think he'd destroy a village just for that reason.

Or it could be similar to the situation with the Sfir family. Knights posing as bandits...

"I'd like to ask you something else. Are you knights?"

".....What are you talking about?"

The bandit scratches his head in confusion.....Based on his reaction I have my doubts.

Was this really just a coincidence? Or is this really a plan by the Marquis?

.....Well, Patrick seems underhanded, but.....I'm not sure about the personality of the Marquis.

"Alright everyone, listen to me and honestly answer my question. Have you ever attacked people?"

"A-Ah, yes. We've attacked two caravans already."

"Muu....Then, have you killed anyone?"

"No, we never killed anyone. We only took half of their money and goods."

Well if they took all of the goods from a trader it would be as good as killing them.

If they didn't resort to this they probably would have died, but this is still a crime.....I'm not sure what is best to do in this situation.

They're not bad people, but what they're doing isn't right.

"For now, what you've said is the truth, right?"

"No matter what we will either die or become slaves. There's no point in lying now."

"Fumu, is that how you all feel?"

All of the other bandits seem to feel the same as him. It doesn't seem like they're lying.

"Alright, I'll give you three choices. First, you can die here as you wish. Second, you can become a slave here in the Marquis of Gramp's territory.

Finally, third, you can become a slave in the Grances territory.”

“.....How is the third option different than being a slave here?”

“You will still be inscribed with a slave contract. However, the quality of life will be better than an average slave.....No, it may be even better than how you were living in your village.”

If you use inscription magic to engrave a slave contract on a slave, they can't disobey their masters. It's unfortunate, but there's really no choice but to do this....I have to do this to ensure they don't try to kill or harm anyone.

“A slave that lives a better life than a villager? That's impossible. Please stop trying to deceive us!”

“No, I'm being serious.....Ah~ right, Tina. Can you come out for a moment.”

I call out to the carriage. Shortly after, Tina timidly climbed out of the carriage.

“I'm sorry. I'm sure you're scared to come out when all these bandits are around.”

“N-No, I'm okay. If I can help Leon-sama it's fine.”

“Thank you. Then, please come here.”

Tina stands by my side and faces the bandits.

“Everyone, what do you think when you look at this girl?”

“Ah? Some noble lady. Maybe even a princess of some country?”

“Neither. Tina is a commoner.”

“....A commoner with that appearance? Perhaps she is your favourite?”

“No—”

The moment I tried to deny this, I could feel Tina looking at me and closed my mouth. What is with that look? It's like she's expecting me to say something.

“Ah~, well.....Tina is certainly a favourite student of mine.”

The moment I said this, Tina seemed to clench her fist and avert her eyes.

I'm just going to continue talking with the bandits.

"However, that's not the reason for her appearance. There are dozens of children like this in our territory."

"There's no way we can believe that. Even if that were true, there would certainly be a difference in how slaves are treated."

"But this girl was originally a slave."

".....Ha? T...That's...a lie.....right?"

"It's the truth. After being sold into slavery I was saved by Leon-sama and I wasn't the only one. Leon-sama will help anyone in need."

".....Seriously?"

"Yes, Leon-sama is the most amazing noble."

— That's when they all decided they wanted to go to the Grances territory.

## Chapter 4-3: Meeting With the Marquis of Gramp

On the date the Marquis had requested we meet with him we arrived at his gate.

By the way, the knights we had accompanying us brought the bandits back to our territory. The only one that remained was Elsa.

"It's a pleasure to meet you Leon-sama. Welcome to the house of the Marquis of Gramp. My name is Joseph; I am the Gramp family's steward."

A steward greeted us at the door and guided us inside to the drawing room. Our Escort, Elsa, waited in another room.

"The Lord of the House will arrive soon. Please, take a seat and wait for a moment."

I sat in the middle of the seat with Claire and Sophia on either side of me. However, Tina and Alice remained standing.

"And who are these ojou-samas?"

"Umm...."

Hmm? Why are they both looking at me....Ah, right.

"Joseph-san, those two are commoners."

"Commoners?"

I could see Joseph's eyes open in surprise.

"They have their reasons for being here, but are they not allowed to be here?"

".....I'm very sorry. There's no problem if they're companions of Leon-sama. Please, sit down."

After hearing this, Alice and Tina took a seat. Immediately after, refreshments were brought out by the maids.

"Now then, I'll get the Lord of the House. Please relax until then."

Joseph says this and bows before leaving the room.

I wonder if he's telling us to relax now because once the Lord of the House gets here we won't be able to relax. No, I'm probably just thinking too much about it.

Well, I still need to remain cautious.

I grabbed my tea while thinking about this. Then, I could feel someone tap me on the shoulder. I looked over to see Claire drinking her black tea.

....Hmm? It wasn't Claire.....Then who tapped my on the shoulder.....Was it a ghost?

I could see Alice just beyond Claire. She was tapping on her shoulder.

.....Ah, the sensory sharing. It's been so long since we've used it for anything other than training with spirit magic.

"Do you need something?"

When I asked this, Alice answered in a whisper. Apparently, she thinks there is someone watching us. It's most likely due to her enhanced perception that she can tell.....but who is it?

"It may be the Marquis of Gramp. It's not unusual to try to observe the other party before negotiations."

— And Claire added this.

I see. It seems the Marquis is just acting in a normal manner.

If it's like that, maybe it will be easier to deal with the Marquis than it was with Patrick. As I was thinking this, the Marquis of Gramp appeared before us.

Claire's former fiancé. I was curious to see what he looked like. He actually looks pretty decent. His appearance kind of reminds me of a cool uncle.

Anyway, we stood and greeted him.

"I'm sorry I've kept you waiting. I am the head of the Gramp family, Crane."

"It's nothing to worry about Marquis of Gramp-sama. I am Leon Grances, the head of the Grances family."

"You can speak comfortable. No need to worry about honorifics."

“....Alright. Then, Marquis of Gramp.”

After all, speaking casually is impossible. I’ll just speak politely with him.

“It’s been a long time, Marquis of Gramp-sama.”

“Ah, Claire. We haven’t met for quite some time. Have you become more beautiful since we last met?”

“You’re as charming as always.”

.....Why do I feel so weird? Hearing Claire talk like a proper lady is strange.

Maybe once I’ve heard it more, I’ll get used to it.

“Anyway, Leon, who are these ojou-samas?”

“Ah, sorry for not introducing them. First is Sophia, who has become my adopted sister.”

“Sophia Grances.”

After my introduction, Sophia lifted the edge of her dress and curtsied.

“Sophia...So this is the girl Patrick is obsessed with?”

“Yes. Sophia was born to the Sfir family.”

“I see. She’s definitely cute. I can understand why Patrick has become infatuated with her.”

No, that’s not okay. Patrick is sixteen, but Sophia is only nine. That’s how I feel, but.....the Marquis is 31 years old and wanted to marry thirteen-year-old Claire.

“Next is Alistair. She works as a teacher at the school in our territory.”

“It’s a pleasure to meet you, Marquis of Gramp-sama.”

Alice lifted the hem of her skirt and curtsied. The way Alice was dressed reminded me of a modern day Japanese girl.

Alice is older than Claire and Sophia and is giving off a more mature charm, but.....the Marquis seemed to show no reaction.

“Ho~u, I’ve heard the school you created is incredibly advanced, but.....I didn’t know the elves were involved. Impressive.”

Is he not interested in her because she's an elf? Or....Impossible! Is he not interested because she's sixteen and that's too old!?

....I need to stop. This line of thinking will just end badly.

If I combine the age from her previous life, that would mean she's 31.....Rather, if I think about my age, I'd be 38....

.....Right, it's best if I just avoid thinking about age.

"Finally, this is Tina. I brought her as a representative of the students."

"I-It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance, Marquis of Gramp-sama."

Tina shows a slightly nervous expression and gently lifts the hem of her skirt. She looks incredibly overwhelmed with the situation. Just lifting the hem of her short skirt is dangerous.

From my perspective it almost appears to be some kind of shame play. (TN: Shame play = S&M)

"Ooh, I heard you were gathering village girls, but this is.....\*gokuri\*"(TN: Gokuri is Japanese SFX for a gulping sound)

Don't "gokuri" at that! This creepy middle-aged guy, is he really the Marquis? Isn't he just a Lolicon!?

"Now everyone is properly introduced. I'm guessing I'll hear the reason you've brought them later.....right, Leon? It seems you've made quite the fool out of a member of one of my branch families."

— The atmosphere surrounding the Marquis suddenly changed. If this were a couple years ago, I'm almost certain I'd be shaking in fear.

Was he acting like a Lolicon earlier to lower my guard?....The mood has completely changed from just a few seconds ago.

"Hmm, are you just going to glare at me? You're quite the interesting child. I've heard that you couldn't manage as the head of the family, so Claire has had to manage in your place."

"I'm still young. It's only due to the excellent people surrounding me that I've been able to manage so far."

"Haa, well said. However.....well, never mind. There's no reason we need to remain standing. Please, take a seat."

The Marquis of Gramp sat first and we all followed shortly after.

"Well then, Leon. I will ask once more, as it is quite important. Why were your intentions? Why did you feel the need to drag my family's name through the mud?"

"Before I answer, I'd like to know what Patrick claimed to have happened."

"I see....Alright, I can show you the letter sent by Patrick."

Immediately after the Marquis said this, the butler named Joseph appeared out of nowhere and handed him a parchment.

The letter claimed Patrick wished to enroll in the same school as Sophia. To do this, he asked a favor of the head of the Grances family in order to enter the school.

However, once he entered the school, he was discriminated against. Eventually this led to acts of violence against him and he was forced to leave the school, humiliated.

"The person from these letters must be a completely different person with the same name. This isn't the Patrick that attended my school."

"Fuu~, well, that response is to be expected."

The Marquis seems amused at my response and laughs slightly.

".....You knew the contents of his letter weren't true?"

"He's an idiot that's been spoiled his entire life. It's not surprising that he'd be dramatizing what actually happened."

Dramatizing.....Well, what he said is untrue.

.....But, I'm a little surprised about the Marquis reaction. I thought he'd believe Patrick's word and threaten us when he thought we were the ones lying.

"So, what was Patrick actually like when he attended your school? I assume that's why you brought that young lady there."

"Yes. After he caused many issues at the school, he hit Tina and denied it. Out of anger, I threatened and attacked him. That's when he left the school with his tail between his legs."

".....Is that the truth?"

"That's what happened with the Patrick I knew. As for the Patrick from those letters, I can't say."

"Hmm...."

"Ah, right. This is unrelated, but it appears that someone has been intentionally spreading terrible rumours about me in my territory."

"I assume you've investigated these rumours yourself. You're not trying to suggest Patrick is behind them? No matter how stupid he may be, he wouldn't be that foolish."

"The rumours are similar to the stories Patrick told when he first enrolled in the school. In addition to this, we managed to capture a few of the people spreading these rumours. After interrogating them, we found the person that hired them to spread these rumours closely resembled Patrick. Of course, there is a chance that they are lying."

"....."

Oh, the Marquis wasn't expecting Patrick to do something like this? The Marquis silently sat there with a bitter expression on his face.

## Chapter 4-4: The Marquis of Gramp's Expectations

The Marquis wanted some time to confirm the information we had given him so the discussion was temporarily put on hold.

Tina wanted to speak with the Marquis of Gramp. Alice also left to prepare her negotiation materials.

That's why only Sophia, Claire, and myself were left in the room.

"But....was it okay to let Tina go by herself?"

"She doesn't have to stay with us."

No, it's more of a question of if it's okay to let a little girl be alone with a lolicon like the Marquis....but it's quite difficult to say something like that.

As I was thinking this, Sophia began pulling on my sleeve.

"She'll be fine, Leon onii-chan."

Tina will be fine? How would she know that....

"Did you use your ability?"

"I only read his emotions."

"I see....Tina is safe, but Sophia what about you? Are you still worried?"

"To be honest, I'm still a little scared."

Maybe it would be best to involve Sophia as little as possible. As I was about to say something, Sophia shook her head.

"Sophia wants to work hard for onii-chan. So, let Sophia help you."

".....I understand. If that's what you want. Just don't overdo it."

"Thank you, Leon onii-chan!"

Sophia jumps up and hugs me. After that, we talked about the discussion we just had with the Marquis and if he was lying at all. We decided that Sophia would pull on my sleeve whenever the Marquis was lying.

Shortly afterward, Tina returned.

"Welcome back. How did it go?"

"He asked about Patrick and the school. I answered honestly.....that was good, right?"

"Yeah, that's fine. So what about the Marquis?"

"He was talking with someone about Patrick. I heard he'll be returning shortly. I'm going to go help Alice."

"Hmm, I see. Alright, go ahead."

Tina left and we waited a few more minutes before the Marquis returned to resume our discussion.

"Well, in regards to Patrick's behaviour. I've been able to confirm that what you said about Patrick spreading rumours about you isn't a lie."

"And.....?"

"Ah, you are definitely the victim here. Let me first apologize to you."

The Marquis of Gramp slightly lowered his head to us.

"Is that so? Does that mean this matter has been decided?"

"Although you aren't at fault here I can't do that. That idiot has been spreading rumours that you have dishonored his family. If I don't hold someone responsible for this I'll lose the respect of my men."

Uwaa, that was pretty straightforward. Although it may be a good sign that he's being honest, that's no reason for us to take responsibility for this.

"That has nothing to do with us."

"Hmm, it is true that you embarrassed Patrick, right?"

"Well.....that is true, but why should we take responsibility for Patrick's actions?"

"I'd be grateful if you would. I think you know already, but the Rodwell family is a branch family of my own. I can't just entirely ignore his complaints."

— And Sophia tugged on my sleeve. Was that a lie? But.....what part is a lie? The Rodwell family is a branch family, right?

.....Hmm, I'll need to dig a little more.

"So, how exactly do you want us to take responsibility for this?"

"Apologize to the Rodwell family and offer Sophia to Patrick."

"That's out of the question."

"Then, allow Claire to become my bride and that will be enough."

"That's also impossible. She is necessary to keep the Grances territory functioning properly."

"That is impossible, this is impossible. Do you think these are reasonable responses?"

What is with these unreasonable demands? Did he never plan on negotiating with us?

Thinking that I looked at the Marquis of Gramp's face. However, he didn't look angry. Rather, his expression seemed to be changing rapidly.

.....Is it something else?

"Are there no other options?"

"If that's the case.....I'll take control of the school. I can clear things up with the Rodwell family afterward."

".....The school?"

"Yes. Isn't that the reason you brought the teacher and the student with you? To advertise how successful the school is."

".....You're interested in the school?"

"I didn't believe the rumours at first, but after seeing the wonderful clothing I've become very interested."

Hmm.....Offering him the school isn't the worst option.

However, I have no plans of giving up the school currently.

I thought he was doing this to protect the honor of the Rodwell family, but.....maybe the lie from earlier was about 'because the Rodwell family is a branch family, he has to do something.'

Should I dig a little deeper?

"That reminds me, on the way here we encountered a group of bandits."

"A group of bandits?"

"Yes. They appeared to be a group of farmers that had to resort to thievery due to repeated bad harvests."

"....I see. So, did you kill them all?"

"Are you concerned about whether they're alive or not?"

"Of course not. I don't care about the life of a bandit."

Sophia again pulled on my sleeve. That was also a lie.

"We took all of the captured bandits back to our territory to work as slaves. There's no problem with that, right?"

"That's fine. They're no longer people of my territory. Now, they're nothing but bandits. You're fine to do as you please."

"I see. Thank you.....Ah, by the way, they may be slaves, but we have no intention of treating them poorly."

"I.....see."

He listened intently but didn't seem to be relieved.

That lie from earlier, is he maybe worried about the farmers? After taxing them and causing them to lose their way of living, was he actually concerned about their futures?

I can't be sure. For now, I'll summarize everything I've learned.

First of all, for several years now, the harvests have been poor in the Marquis of Gramp's territory. After unreasonably collecting the taxes of one village, he seemed worried about their futures. In addition, there seems to be some reason he can't cut ties with the Rodwell family. Ah, and the Marquis of Gramp is a lolicon.

.....Maybe the Marquis' territory is facing financial difficulties?

"Hmm.....There is a tin mine in the Rodwell family, right? Despite the high

demand for bronze in your territory, there doesn't seem to be much available."

".....What are you trying to say?"

"No, I was just wondering if it's something you were interested in."

"Well, of course, I have interests in it. But, with such a trivial amount of revenue brought in by that mine, it really isn't much of a concern."

At that moment, Sophia didn't pull on my sleeve.

Hmm.....That wasn't a lie? I thought he had a vested interest in the Rodwell family's tin mine and that's why he was trying to keep them on his side. Was that just my misunderstanding?

I guess he has another reason. At that time, Claire began to speak.

"Marquis of Gramp-sama, just now you said the revenue from the mine is trivial. That may be the case, but to the Gramp family that revenue would be indispensable."

.....Ah, so that's how it is. The revenue may be trivial as a whole, but due to the Gramp family's financial situation, it is indispensable.

As expected of Claire. After all, she has been managing the Grances territory.

"Are you trying to say that our territory is in a poor financial state? That's absolutely ridiculous. As if that could ever be the case."

This time, Sophia pulled on my sleeve.

There's no doubt now. Due to the repeated food shortages, the Gramp family is running low on money. They've been forced to raise the taxes of some villages in order to buy food for the rest of their people.

That's a relief — I was worried he was trying to trick me, but he just doesn't want to appear weak.

In any case, he's not trying to protect the Rodwell family, just their mine.

That actually makes the negotiations a lot easier. I just need to convince him it's more profitable to ally with the Grances family over the Rodwell family.

There are many ways we can make a huge profit. And I never had any plans to monopolize these new technologies. So, there's nothing wrong with giving

priority to the Gramp family.

In other words, I should have more than enough material to make the Marquis of Gramp our ally.

"Thank you, Sophia and Claire. Thanks to you two, I've found a way of solving this."

*ku ku ku* Prepare yourself, Patrick. You caused me a lot of trouble, but, with this, I'll be able to destroy the relationship between the Rodwell and Gramp families.

I'll make sure you regret laying a hand on my students!

"Uwaa.....Leon onii-chan's heart is black....."

After hearing Sophia's comment, I returned to my senses.

## Chapter 4-5: Conclusion

That was regrettable. Because of all the hardships Patrick caused me, I was focused on getting revenge on him. The reason I'm here isn't to get revenge on Patrick, it's to clear things up with the Marquis of Gramp.

I have to be sure not to forget that.

It's definitely not because I'm afraid of what Sophia will do to me.

"I'd like to return to our original discussion. The school is a place I must protect and I can't give it to you."

"Hmm, then, is this a breakdown in negotiations?"

"No, I think I have an idea for something you'd be willing to accept. We will provide you with a solution to the problem your family is facing."

"....What is this solution? Please, be a little more specific."

"Information on how to manufacture steel and new agricultural technology."

"The technology used to make your clothing must be fascinating, but....what kind of technology would that be?"

"With the knowledge to create steel, you would no longer need to be concerned about the lack of tin. Bronze is rather difficult to make and with steel, you'd be able to create stronger tools with the remaining iron ore."

"Hou~....you say this steel is stronger than bronze."

"Yes, and with the new agricultural technology you can expect improved harvests within a few years."

"You aim to solve two of our problems.....is this a dream?"

"I don't expect you to believe me right away. So, let me show you some proof."

My failure at the Sfir home won't be repeated.

I signal to Alice who is waiting outside the room. Shortly after, Alice and Tina entered with one of the Marquis of Gramp's maids carrying various items.

.....the maid seems to be trembling a little.

"Hey, Alice, what's wrong with that maid?"

"A~ah, that maid? I just needed her to help me carry some things."

"No, that's not it. Is she feeling unwell?"

"It's because she's the maid of the Gramp family."

I wasn't quite sure what she meant, but when I looked at the maid I was able to understand. She was carrying a tray piled high with various types of glassware.

From what I've learned glass is incredibly valuable. The glass is incredibly fragile and the maid is worried she might break it.

.....Alice is just bullying her by making her carry all of that!

I panicked and ran over to take the tray from the maid. Immediately after I took it, the maid collapsed to the ground.

"I-I'm sorry. Alice is just unreasonable."

"N....No, it was a very valuable experience.....Huu~"

"Is that so? Then, I guess that's fine....."

I feel like the maid's expression looked like she was experiencing some kind of ecstasy, but I'll try not to think too deeply on it. I began arranging the glassware on the table.

Alice and Tina also brought in iron products, washi, and the finest silk fabrics we had made. With this, we laid out items on the table that couldn't be manufactured in this world.

As we laid out more of the items, the mouth of the Marquis opened wider and wider.

"W-what is all of this!? I've never seen anything like it before!"

"They're items we've created in the Grances territory. Please, pick it up with your own hands."

"This is everything you've been crafting in your territory!?"

"No, this is only some of it."

"Some!? You mean to say there's more!?"

"In total, I'd say this is maybe 10% of everything we've made."

"....."

The Marquis of Gramp's mouth was hanging wide open and stood there speechless.

Oh, after seeing everything we've created, he doesn't seem to doubt we'd be able to increase his revenue. I'm worried he'll open his mouth so wide he'll dislocate his jaw.

"I-I believe you have more advanced technologies. With them, I'm sure we'd easily be able to solve the problems my territory is facing."

"Then, are you satisfied with this?"

"I-It depends on what you want in exchange for these technologies."

"It not a complex condition. We want to not be held responsible for Patrick's actions."

"Well of course that much."

"Another thing is that we don't want Patrick interfering with our territory ever again."

"That's also a given. I'll make sure he never interferes with you."

That is what I really wanted.

I was starting to get anxious, but I've finally been able to accomplish what I set out to do. With this, I can protect Sophia and everyone else.

"So, what is your main demand?"

".....Eh?"

"Don't play dumb. For a technology like this, you must have more demands to make."

.....Huh? I got the main thing I wanted. Yet, he's saying I can demand more?

But there's nothing else I want.....Ah, that's right.

"If there is ever a house similar to the Rodwell's that tries to make us their enemy, will you support us?"

"Of course that's no problem. So, please, just please already make your main demand!"

Whaaa~? Just now, that was another demand. Even if he's asking me for other demands, I can't think of anything.

"Please, just say it already! Please, tell me!"

"Umm.....well, that was everything."

"Wh....at...."

"Those three requests were everything."

".....Really? That was everything? You don't plan on demanding something else at a later time?"

"It's fine. I don't plan on demanding anything else. We can even write it down if you'd like."

"Seriously? If I accept those conditions you've laid out you'll teach us about manufacturing steel and new agricultural technologies?"

"Ah, no. If you agree to those conditions we'll teach you all of the techniques we know."

The Marquis of Gramp's jaw dislocated.

"Yo-You really plan on teaching us everything you know?"

A short while later, the Marquis of Gramp has now fixed his jaw. When these negotiations started the Marquis appeared to be rather composed, but now he seems to be unable to remain calm.

After all, this country wouldn't normally develop this technology for another few hundred years. Someone that knows the value of this technology would be overwhelmed. Thinking about how Patrick reacted, he was rather strange. He didn't seem to think anything about the technology in our territory.

"We will provide all of our technologies to you. Though we do not have enough people trained to offer you our own. So, we will train some of your

people as well.”

“That’s fine, but....Is it really okay? If one were to monopolize this technology, they could easily make a tremendous profit.”

“That may be the case, but I had no plans to monopolize this from the beginning.”

“You didn’t plan on monopolizing it? Then, you planned on selling it for money?”

“That’s not the case. All of these technologies are being taught to our students. And these students were intended to be sent out to other territories.”

“That’s ridiculous. With the profit you could stand to make from these technologies you could even control the country!”

“True. However, if I were to monopolize these technologies, I would make many enemies.”

This is just technology. If handled poorly, I could turn the entire country into an enemy. And at that time, even the Marquis wouldn’t be able to help me.

And that’s why I’ve decided to not monopolize the technology.

“.....But, if you can’t monopolize any of the technologies, then they may not be as significant. Wouldn’t it be best to monopolize at least one or two?”

“Normally that would be the case.”

If the technology were released to everyone, eventually there would be counterfeit products. After several years, there would be items that are even equal to the original being sold.

If we cover the cost of research and development, only to have someone copy us, we’d be unable to make any profit. But the stuff we’re making are just copies of products from Earth.

“If we continuously put out technologies over the next decade, there would be no reason to monopolize anything.”

“Wh-What? What do you mean?”

“I told you that everything here is only about ten percent of the total

technologies we have back in our territory. But even that is only a small percent of everything I plan to develop in the future.”

For example, using the technology to produce steel. Alice and I know how to make various tools with steel. Therefore, developing new products would not stop for a while.

Even if the newer products are only slightly different, over time, the more products we create will show that we are more advanced than every other territory. In five years, we’d be able to garner enough power that any other family would not be able to match us.

Moreover, since we’re providing the technology to everyone, we’ll create many allies while keeping our enemies to a minimum.

The only way this can be accomplished is by introducing hundreds of new technologies to this world.

— I know that most people won’t just take me at my word.

With these new advancements, many people will lose their jobs. And if this country were to become incredibly wealthy, the surrounding nations would take notice.

And there’s always the chance there are some problems I haven’t considered.

Our purpose is not to be the strongest. As long as we can live happily, I don’t mind just supporting the rest of the country.

Whatever problems may arise, as long as I’m with everyone, I’m sure we can overcome them.

“Hahaha.....So you plan on releasing countless new technologies to the people? Leon, who are you? Why do you have knowledge of these new technologies?”

“That’s.....”

Hmm....How should I reply? Even if I were to tell him I’m from another world, I doubt he would believe me. Of course, I have no intention of doing that.

Hiding things and acting secretive isn’t good, but.....

“—That’s because I’ve entrusted Leon with everything.”

Alice suddenly spoke up. She then raised her hand to remove her silver hair pin. The inscription magic concealing her true appearance was removed, revealing her golden right eye.

“Your eyes.....Impossible, are you a high elf!?.....I see. A high-elf is able to retain ancient knowledge from their ancestors. Have you retained this ancient knowledge?”

“I have kept my memories of a previous life.”

I see. She isn’t lying about retaining her memories from a previous life. The Marquis of Gramp is just assuming she means ancient knowledge.

“Was it okay to tell him that you’re a high elf?”

I whispered to Alice.

It isn’t exactly true, but now it appears the source of the technology is Alice. There is also the possibility that the Marquis of Gramp will target Alice.....I met eyes with the Marquis.

“There’s no need to worry. The promises you made haven’t changed. After all, nobles are proud people.”

Nobles are willing to betray their allies just to make a profit.

....Well, regarding the Rodwell family, I feel it’s what they deserve.

I would never risk Alice so I’ll need to be cautious around the Marquis, but... for now it should be okay. For now, there should be no reason for him to be hostile towards us.

“Now I’ll ask you this, do you give us your word that you will stay silent about Alice being a high elf?”

“Of course. I swear on my honour that I will never tell anyone. Even other members of the nobility.”

“Thank you.”

After that, we finished a detailed discussion and agreed to send some of our first-year students here and next year we plan to accept some students from his

territory. And in the future, even if we decide to accept students from other countries, we guarantee to accept a certain amount of students from his people.

With this, I was able to obtain the sizable support of the Marquis of Gramp.

After these early talks, Sophia and everyone else no longer need to live in fear. Finally, we have truly been able to gain a sense of freedom.

## Epilogue: Two Moons

About half a year has passed since the discussions with the Marquis. We had now gathered at the student dormitory to hold a party celebrating everyone's graduation.

"Everyone, congratulations on your graduation!"

"""Cheers!"""

Everyone clinks their glasses together in celebration.

By the way, when the maid of the Marquis family was holding the glass, she looked pale, but.....I turned to look at all of the students.

Everyone seems carefree. Banging glasses together with no worries.

The students should know the value of glass, but they don't seem scared of breaking the glass at all. Is it because they know the glass won't break....

"Leon-sama, thank you for everything!"

Everyone began moving around and eventually Lyanna and the rest of the graduates gathered around me.

"Lyanna, congratulations. And everyone else, congratulations as well. You've all worked so hard."

"E~he~, it's all thanks to Leon. I'll do my best in the future, so thank you."

"Yeah. Please be a good example for the new students coming in."

It's been decided that Lyanna, who was one of the best second-year students, will become a teacher next year. The rest of the second-year students will be sent out to the surrounding villages.

"Still, the school year went by rather quickly. It was around this time last year that you joined the school."

"Well, I wanted to be a student for a little while longer."

"Actually, starting next year, I plan on extending the time students spend in the school."

“Eh, what do you mean!? That’s not fair!”

“.....Even if you say that I don’t have much choice with the number of students that will be joining.”

She’s sad to hear that the time spent taking classes will be extended? Is that because she would’ve liked to live as a student for longer? If so, I’m glad to hear that.

“Well, if you have spare time you can take some extra classes with the students.”

“Really? Thank you!”

Like this, I enjoyed the conversation with the second-year students.

I finished talking with everyone, then went to the corner of the table where cake and other sweets were lined up.

Since the sugar cane production is going well, we’re currently able to mass-produce sugar. So, we plan to make a cafe in the city soon.

Joking aside, I feel like this town is almost 100 years ahead of any other in this world.

“Ah, Leon onii-chan.”

“That voice is Sophia.....and Milli? That’s a rare combination.”

“Is that so?”

“It’s not so strange~”

They were sitting next to each other eating cake. I thought it was unusual, but they didn’t seem to think that way.

Well, they seem to be getting along well together. Thinking about it, Milli would become Sophia’s mother-in-law, so it’s better if they get along well.

“Hey, hey, Leon onii-chan. Sophia has a favor to ask you.”

“Alright, ask me anything — reasonable. I’ll consider anything reasonable.”

That was close. Recently Sophia has been more forceful. If I said anything, she may ask for the same thing Claire did.

“Why can’t I ask for anything?”

“I will only do something reasonable.”

“Muu....”

Why does she seem so disappointed? What would she have asked for if I had said she could ask for anything?

“.....So, what is your request?”

“Well, Sophia wants to continue to help Leon onii-chan, so Sophia wants to continue going to school.”

“Ah....You’re supposed to graduate this year, but if you wish to stay in school longer that should be fine.”

“Really!?”

“Oh, next year we will also increase the number of classes and we will introduce optional classes for the students. So, you can choose your favorite subjects to study.”

“Yay~! Leon onii-chan, I love you!”

“Woah. It’s dangerous if you hug me so suddenly like that.”

“Ehehe~, sorry~”

She’s sly like usual. For some reason, I can feel Alice at work here. Well, I’ll forgive her because she’s cute.

Alice teaches Sophia strange things, but....It’s definitely thanks to Alice that Sophia has become so smart.

It was probably right to leave Sophia in Alice’s care, probably.

“What are you thinking about, Leon onii-chan?”

“N-Nothing at all. Which type of cake is your favourite?”

“I like shortcake the most.”

“I like cheesecake.”

“I see. Then, I’ll have to try that one as well.”

Like that, I also started to eat some cake. Then, the three of us continue talking amongst one another. I then heard Claire's voice calling out to me.

I looked back to find where she was and could see her, Michelle, and Tina all sitting at a table together.

I say goodbye to Milli and Sophia and head over to Claire's table and grabbed a seat.

"Are you three talking about how to best manage the territory?"

".....Otouto-kun, do you think all I talk about is work?"

"Then, what are you all talking about?"

"Michelle has been busy with teaching these days, so I wanted to ask Tina if she would assist me when she has time."

"He~, is that so?"

I thought they were talking about work — but I guess I was wrong.

Well, it's my fault for making Michelle a teacher. I'll be in trouble if I say anything negative here.

"Leon-sama, can I assist Claire?"

"Please allow her to do this. My younger sister would work her hardest to help Claire-sama."

I was wondering why they were asking me — I guess they were looking to me for approval.

"If Tina is fine with it then there should be no problem. Please support Claire."

"Yes! I'll do my best!"

She looks really happy. I guess she must be happy to be in a similar role as Claire.

Whatever the case, Tina should be more than capable of helping Claire. I know that I can trust Michelle's sister. She easily had the best grades in her year.

"Oh yeah, Claire. There are some new ideas I'd like to try implementing in our

territory. Can we set up a meeting so we can talk?”

“Couldn’t we just talk now?”

“No, this a special occasion. We should just have fun here.”

“Oh, otouto-kun, didn’t you think I was always working?”

“Because I thought that, I want you to relax a little.”

“Thank you for worrying, but I’m fine. If it’s something that you think will improve the territory, please let me know.”

“Alright, if you say so.”

— And I tried to start talking, but Claire told me to wait a moment.

“Michelle, Tina, please enjoy the party.”

“No, I may have been teaching more recently, but I am still Claire-sama’s attendant. I will stay and help in whatever way I can.”

“I feel the same. Starting today I am Claire-sama’s assistant so I will stay too.”

Michelle and Tina say this and try to stay, but Claire just shakes her head.

“I’m happy to hear that, but Michelle, don’t you need to stay and celebrate the students’ graduation?”

“But....I understand. If you say so, I’ll stay here.”

Michelle smiled and returned to her seat. Claire acknowledged her and then turned her eyes to Tina.

“This party is also for you, Tina. So, please enjoy yourself and you can start as my assistant tomorrow.”

“But....”

“It’s fine. Once you formally become my assistant, I’ll make sure you work hard for me every day.”

“I understand. I’ll enjoy the party today.”

She lowered her head and returned to the party.

“....What are you planning?”

“Sometimes it’s nice to be alone with my otouto-kun.”

“I thought so.”

I could kind of tell by the way Claire was acting, but when Michelle left she seemed to give Claire a meaningful look and I thought it may be possible.

“Do you not want to be alone?”

“Of course I wouldn’t think that.”

“Fu~fu~, that’s good to hear.”

Claire narrowed her jade eyes and smiled while looking down at the ground. She seems to have matured a lot after turning thirteen.

Will I someday see her as a woman and not just my older sister?

.....No, no, no. Of course, she will become a woman one day, but I need to not think about that. I feel like I’m being corrupted little by little.

“So, what did you want to talk about, otouto-kun?”

“Nothing really. We’ve both been busy recently, so this was just an excuse for us to talk alone.”

“Is that so?”

“Recently, we’ve both been occupied with work. I sometimes wish we had time to just talk as siblings.”

“.....Thank you, otouto-kun. It’s kind of you to say that, but I know you actually had something you wanted to talk about.”

I showed a gentle smile. I was a little impatient. Claire was acting cute, but she easily saw through my lie.

I was lying when I said I didn’t want to talk about work.

There are many things I’d like to talk with her about. Creating a separate preparatory school from the regular school, establishing a welfare system for the people, creating an adventurer’s guild in the city, and much more.

However, when I heard Claire’s words, I thought it may be better if we relaxed for a while.

I guess it's impossible for me to try to lie to Claire.

"Hey, Claire. Are you.....happy?"

"Thanks to otouto-kun, I feel really fulfilled."

"Is that so?"

It's been seven years since I met Claire and have wanted to protect her. I've always wanted to know how I can make her happy.

"That's why my dream now is to improve the Grances territory with otouto-kun and everyone else."

".....Eh? That's your dream now?"

"Yes, that's my dream currently. Thanks to otouto-kun, I have been able to gain freedom and now I've finally set the stage for me to build on. I'll do my best to achieve my dreams."

....I see. That's right, I'm not done yet. I need to live freely and be happy. I haven't achieved my own dream just yet.

"Alright, shall we talk about how to make the Grances territory rich?"

In the end, we talked about how to further improve the Grances territory.

After a while, I exited out onto the terrace. I could see Alice standing out here looking up at the sky.

"What are you doing here?"

"Oh, Leon. I was tired after talking to so many students, so I decided to run away for a while."

"Ah, you're very popular with your students."

Though, Milli and Michelle wouldn't lose out in popularity. Since Alice has travelled all over the country, the students seem especially interested in her.

"Alice is a teacher after all."

Thinking about the fact that Saya in her previous life wasn't even able to attend junior high made me feel very emotional.

"Starting from next year, I think I'll leave teaching to everyone else."

"Is that because some of the students will now be teachers? There's no reason for you to remain teaching."

"Teaching is fun, but I like you more. Ah, I made a mistake. I love you."

"Why did you correct yourself?"

I think it's rather strange that she's comparing me to teaching.

'That's because I haven't made any progress in seducing you yet.'

"Don't try to seduce a twelve-year-old."

"In this world, a twelve-year-old is already an adult."

"Even if that's so, I'm still the age of a child."

"Muu~....."

Alice begins to pout. I laughed a little as I looked at Alice pouting. Then, I moved a little closer to her and looked up into the sky.

A blue, full moon was floating there.

"The moon from our previous world was beautiful, but this one is quite beautiful as well."

"Muu~, you're obviously trying to change the subject."

"I'm not changing the subject. Alice — Saya, you grew up in Japan. You should be able to understand my meaning."

"What are you saying....Eh?"

There's an anecdote in Japan that 'I love you' when translated means, 'The moon is beautiful.' I guess this situation reminded me of that, but Alice just stared at me with a blank expression.

"Eh....Eh? Just now, was that...maybe?"

"Yes, this story ends with that."

"Eeeeehhhhh!? After all this time, you say it now!"

"I've felt that way for a few years."

"And for so long too!?"

I laughed at the sight of Alice panicking. Every day recently has been filled with work. Sometimes it's nice to take a day off like this.

"Muu.....a few years?"

"The time seems to have passed so quickly."

"Maybe that's because we're happy with everyone....Hey, Leon. May I lean a little on you?"

"That's fine, but..."

Alice came closer before I had time to finish my sentence. When we met, our height difference was similar to an adult and a child. Now, we were almost the same height.

Having Alice close to me like this made me feel a little happy.

"Before, I said I ran away from the students because I was exhausted. But, really, I was just envious of them all."

"I see..."

Because Saya was sick she was only able to attend elementary school. Even after being reborn into this world, she was only able to wear a high school uniform but never attended class as a student.

.....That's right.

Let's arrange for Alice to attend school once we get the new school system properly set up. Saya always wanted to attend school and wear a uniform; I'm sure she'll be happy.

While thinking about this, I continued looking up at the blue moon with Alice.

# Extra Chapter

Well, I should start by introducing myself I am Clare Ridill, who appeared in Volume 2. There are some spoilers ahead for Volume 2, so be careful if you haven't read the volume yet.

By the way, the reason why I am giving summaries for all of the characters in Volume 2.....I wonder if this will become a regular thing?

Now then, I will introduce the characters from Volume 2, but omit the descriptions of characters already introduced in Volume 1. Instead, I will tell you something about them you may not already know.

## [Leon Grances]

First up is the protagonist of the story and my brother. He's still a child but has been living a very adult life for the past two years. It was also decided that his hair would be changed from blonde to brown.

By the way, there are many people with the opinion that otouto-kun has been manipulated by us recently and he is no longer the protagonist. That is just a misunderstanding.

After all, the title of the series is "My Sisters from Another World Have No Self-Restraint." The point of the story is for him to be manipulated by us.

.....Well, that is my personal opinion.

## [Alistair]

Alice, this girl.....She really has no self-restraint. I am also one of the sisters that have no self-restraint, but I like to think I'm not as bad as her.....

Of course, we're not on bad terms. I just think I have a little more self-restraint than her.

She is an expert spirit magician, has the sensory sharing ability, and has heightened senses. She is completely overpowered. Alice is the main reason many battle scenes are never serious.

## [Claire Ridill Grances]

Me.

I am currently in charge of handling the Grances territory in place of otouto-kun.

I am probably the one that spends the most time doing work.....Unfortunately, even though I'm trying my best, otouto-kun isn't there to see it.

Rather, this means there is no time for me to mess around with him.

[Sophia Sfir]

Sophia-chan.

She fell into darkness in the last volume but was able to return to the light in Volume 2. However, she's being educated by Alice.....I'm afraid she'll go to some other form of darkness soon.

When I say she'll go into some other kind of darkness I mean.....Well, one of the chapters in the next volume is called "My sister-in-law Sophia has no self-restraint!" That's about all I can say.

[Milli]

Otouto-kun's mother. My (future) mother-in-law.

Has she been suppressing her desire to care for Leon so far? Or is she afraid he doesn't need her to look after him?

She herself has said she's only fulfilling the duties of a maid, but I'm not sure I believe her.

[Michelle]

She is my personal maid but more of a mother to me. I'm grateful to her for raising me, but.....it's because of her that my character can be so rough.

[Tina]

She's one year older than otouto-kun.

She has dark eyes and black hair, similar to Michelle, but she is not a reincarnator.

By the way, originally she was supposed to be a minor heroine, but.....for certain reasons, she was demoted to a lower position.

She was originally intended to just be a first year student, but it was later decided that she best fit with the second year students. This led to her being split between first year and second year.

—Some people have already noticed, but Tina and Lyanna are very similar characters. There was originally only one, but eventually, they were split into two separate characters and also demoted to lesser roles.

### [Lyanna]

The girl with purple eyes and blue hair. She is two years older than Leon.

She is the daughter of the village chief of Rejykk and was sent to Muhle to become otouto-kun's mistress.

By the way, to clarify, the reason the village chief's daughter, Lyanna, was sold to us was that the chief thought otouto-kun wanted a young child as a mistress.

Rejykk had little food and no villager wanted to sell their children to reduce the demand for food. So, the village chief made the painful decision to sell his daughter in order to feed his people.

### [Kyle]

The village chief of Rejykk.

He honestly didn't recognize his daughter.....

Aside from that.....

The author also has a rather dark history with one of her parents. Her mother would dress her in a kimono and cover her face in white powder.

That may be why Kyle did something so terrible....

### [Elsa]

The red haired knight commander. She is five years older than Leon.

After most of the knights died defending the Grances mansion in the first volume, Elsa became the new knight commander.

This young lady was chosen to be the new knight commander.....per my instructions.

[Eric]

He has dirty blonde hair and blue eyes. He is three years older than Leon.

By the way, he has dirty blonde hair because Carlos had brown hair.

Carlos felt that his brown hair was unfitting for nobility. So, he married a woman with blonde hair, Elyse, in order for his children to have blonde hair.

As a result, Sophia was born with brilliant, blonde hair. It appears he wasn't as lucky with Eric. Eric's hair is blonde, but there is a clear brown hue to it.

At first, he planned on becoming a knight, but more recently he has been focused on improving the Sfir family name. He won't appear in Volume 3 but expect to see him again in Volume 4.

By the way, he left Sophia in otouto-kun's care not because he didn't want her, but because he felt he couldn't heal her mental scars.

Although they haven't had much interaction yet, Sophia and Eric are close siblings.

[Crane Gramp]

He is 19 years older than otouto-kun.

A very capable Marquis. At least, more so than Patrick or Carlos.

He may not have come off that way in the negotiations with otouto-kun, but that's mainly due to the strangely advanced technologies coming out of the Grances territory.

This may be the case, but he is without a doubt a genuine lolicon. Moreover, he's not interested in small breasts. He's a part of the group that is interested in lolis with big breasts.

Run away, Sophia! Run away now!

I was able to cancel our engagement because I was Leon's older sister, but if he goes after Sophia I'm not sure we'd be able to stop him.

[Joseph]

The butler of the Gramp family. Honestly, he doesn't talk much.

[Garrett]

I bet you're thinking, "Who is this?" Well, he has yet to appear in any of the written works.

He is something like a bandit boss. He won't appear in Volume 3, but if you keep his name in the back of your mind, you may pick up on something in later volumes.

[Patrick Rodwell]

He is the prodigal son of a viscount family. He is four years older than otouto-kun.

He has blonde hair and blue eyes; the typical appearance of nobility. His personality — needless to say, it's terrible. Hitting a girl is the lowest thing you can do.

Basically, he is a dog with a loud bark but not much bite....He really only came to dislike Leon over a misunderstanding in the first place.

I wonder what has become of him.....You'll find out in the future.

[Gilm]

Patrick's personal knight.

Patrick is a nobleman so it's obvious he'd have his own guard — but his personal knight was completely defeated by otouto-kun.

[Bale]

Patrick's steward.

This person only appeared to explain Patrick's black magic.

And that is the end of the character summaries.

I will now take some time to explain the world a bit.

First off, how the children age in this world.

Due to the relatively harsh environment, children mature faster. I can't give any concrete figures, but some children would be regarded as adults around the

age of twelve.

In other words, a twelve-year-old in this world is similar to a fifteen or sixteen-year-old in Japan.

However, this increased growth is only during the early years. Afterward, the growth slows down and a twenty-year-old in this world would appear younger than one from Japan.

By the way, the reason for this increased growth is because the children need to adapt to the harsh world they live in. Once a person reaches adulthood the growth slows down now that they are accustomed to the world.

Doesn't the idea of a forever young Sophia make everyone happy?

Next are the types of magic.

Spirit magic, black magic, white magic, and inscription magic.

Generally, the magic of this world works by a magic user gathering the surrounding mana in the atmosphere and converting that into magical power.

The only exception to this is inscription magic. This magic can be used with only the trace amounts of magical power that exists in every human's body.

Although the effect may be less powerful, even an ordinary person may be able to use inscription magic.

Next is black magic.

It is a type of magic that can cause various different effects by directly converting magical power. Compared to spirit magic, the versatility is low, but the power is incredible.....

It would be a mistake to compare this magic and Alice and otouto-kun's magic.

Now for white magic.

This is purely a concept as of now and there are no users in the story yet. I'm not sure any users will appear in the future, but I imagine this type of magic would be very strong.

Finally, spirit magic.

The type of magic Alice and otouto-kun use. The user converts mana into magical power like normal. However, instead of directly converting this magical power into a spell, the user offers the magical power to a spirit and makes a request of them.

Directly converting the magical power into a spell is easier, but spirit magic is much more versatile.

By the way, with spirit magic, it is possible to extend the duration of the spell. This is something that black magic can't do. However, because the spirits can be quite capricious, the time limit for most spells seems to only be a few seconds.

I think that's everything.

Let's meet again in the third volume!